

QUEEN *of* ROME ⊕ QUEEN *of* ISLAM

# QUEEN *of* ALL

The Marian apparitions' plan to unite all religions  
under the Roman Catholic Church

Jim TETLOW

Roger OAKLAND

Brad MYERS



QUEEN OF ROME, QUEEN OF ISLAM, QUEEN OF ALL  
*The Marian apparitions' plan to unite all religions under the Roman Catholic Church*

by Jim Tetlow, Roger Oakland, and Brad Myers

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## CHAPTER 1

# QUEEN OF ALL

### APPARITIONS!

She appears as a living, breathing, three-dimensional lady enveloped in exquisite light. Visionaries and seers describe a beautiful, young woman glowing in radiant splendor. Seers, while describing her as brilliant to behold and arrayed with every splendor, admit that the “Queen of Heaven” transcends human description.

Marian followers also report seeing strange lights and glorious visions that often accompany an apparition. Visions of angels, glowing orbs, tongues of fire, mysterious solar phenomena, and peculiar luminous clouds have been sighted. Because of the tremendous pleasure and joy experienced by visionaries during an apparition, the term *ecstasy*<sup>1</sup> is the word most often used to describe this event. Those who have witnessed her, admit that they are paralyzed and enraptured by her beauty and charm.

Numerous healings and miracles have been reported at apparition sites around the globe. In addition, the apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary has repeatedly announced that her most significant signs and wonders are yet future! She admits that she has not yet revealed her full glory to the world. She predicts heavenly signs and wonders that the whole world will soon witness. Consider the following messages received by three separate visionaries:

My sign is emerging. God wills it thus. Only my children recognize it, as it reveals itself in secrecy, and they praise the Eternal One for

it. Today I cannot reveal my power to the whole world. I must withdraw with my children. In secrecy I will perform miracles on the souls until the number of sacrifices has become full. ...Then I can reveal myself to the whole world...<sup>2</sup>

Soon, I will come, my children! Soon, I will be in your midst with a great light. I will enlighten the entire world. Many souls will cry because they did not listen to my call. ...I will pass above everyone in a cloud and everyone will see me. What will become of those who insulted me and made a laughing stock of me? ...I will come soon, my sons, to travel through the entire world. I will give a great sign in the sky for those who will still want to be saved. All those who have recourse to me, who have a look of repentance, this will be sufficient to save them.<sup>3</sup>

I wish to also tell you that before my apparitions end completely, I shall be seen by every denomination and religion throughout this world. I will be seen among all people, not for just a moment, but everyone will have a chance to see me. As I appeared in Zeitoun, I shall appear again so everyone may see me. Pray and help my plans to be realized, not just here, but throughout the world.<sup>4</sup>

### THE NUMBERS ARE STAGGERING

Consider that 15 to 20 million Marian followers visit a single shrine in Guadalupe, Mexico, every single year! The shrine is dedicated to Our Lady of Guadalupe, who appeared in 1531 to seer Juan Diego. On December 12, 1999, the anniversary of the Virgin Mary's appearance, five million pilgrims visited the shrine to pay honor to Our Lady.<sup>5</sup> In addition, 1999 marked the first time in church history that the feast of the apparition of Our Lady of Guadalupe was celebrated by all bishops and priests in the Western Hemisphere. In an apostolic exhortation delivered during his visit to Mexico in 1999, Pope John Paul II elevated December 12 to a holy day for the Catholic Church.<sup>6</sup>

In war-torn Bosnia, an estimated 30 million pilgrims have visited Medjugorje since the apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary began in 1981.<sup>7</sup> Besides the six visionaries who regularly receive messages from the Virgin, thousands of pilgrims claim to see signs and wonders; experience healing; and hear the voice of Mary at Medjugorje. Visiting

Medjugorje is a painstaking task involving many hours by bus over war-ravaged roads. The millions of pilgrims who venture to Medjugorje do so with the knowledge that their pilgrimage will be difficult and dangerous – yet they continue to come in droves.

In Conyers, Georgia, seer Nancy Fowler has received up to 100,000 visitors to her farm on a single day.<sup>8</sup> The pilgrims come from all over, many traveling great distances to hear the most recent message from the Blessed Mother. At the National Shrine Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes, in Emmitsburg, Maryland, attendance has increased to 500,000 per year.<sup>9</sup>

### **MARIAN APPARITIONS EVERYWHERE**

Marian apparitions from almost every state in America are being reported – many of these sites are drawing thousands. From New York City to San Francisco numerous reported visitations from the Queen of Heaven have been documented.<sup>10</sup> The sheer number of Marian followers and their determination to hear from the Virgin reveals that these individuals are not merely curious sightseers, but rather a huge, growing flock of Marian disciples.

Five and one-half million pilgrims visit a single apparition site in Lourdes, France annually.<sup>11</sup> Poland's Marian shrine Our Lady of Czestochowa (a favorite of the late Pope John Paul II) draws an estimated five million pilgrims a year.<sup>12</sup> A single apparition site in Knock, Ireland, has drawn millions who come to pray to Our Lady of Knock and visit the Apparition Gable. This Marian shrine has been honored by four popes during the 20th century, including Pope John Paul II, who went on pilgrimage to Knock, Ireland in 1979.<sup>13</sup>

In Sabana Grande, Puerto Rico, a location where the Virgin Mary reportedly appeared more than 50 years ago, multiplied thousands of religious devotees come from all over the world. The site has become so popular that preparations are underway to construct a statue of the Virgin twice as high as New York's Statue of Liberty. A local newspaper reports that:

The grand scale heroic statue of Our Lady of the Rosary, part of the projected 500-acre Mystical City complex, will top at 1,500

feet. It will have room inside to contain radio and TV stations, various chapels, apartments, a food court, conference rooms and an observation deck.<sup>14</sup>

At the famous apparition site in Fatima, Portugal, pilgrims numbering more than one million were in attendance during the October 13th anniversary of the 1917 apparition. Total annual attendance at Fatima is estimated to be 4.5 million, and growing.<sup>15</sup> The list of major apparition sites goes on and on.

Thousands gather every year in Amsterdam to celebrate the International Day of Prayer of the Lady and Mother of All Nations. Scores of priests, bishops and cardinals preside over the event, where thousands of participants from over 70 countries and six continents converge to honor the Lady of All Nations.<sup>16</sup> This apparition of the Virgin Mary appeared to visionary Ida Peerdeman numerous times. Her main message was that she wants unity. This unity will come only when the Church and pope officially proclaim the Lady of All Nations as Co-Redemptrix.<sup>17</sup> To date, millions of faithful Marian advocates have petitioned Rome to officially name her Co-Redemptrix.<sup>18</sup>

### **GROWING WORLDWIDE POPULARITY**

The popularity of the apparitions and her messages has grown to mammoth proportions. Marian historians are quick to point out that apparitions of Mary have been reported throughout the centuries, but never in the history of Marian apparitions has she appeared with such consistency and frequency as in our day.

In 1997, *Newsweek* ran a cover story on the Virgin Mary. The article states: "In many ways, the 20th century has belonged to Mary. From almost every continent, visionaries have reported more than 400 'apparitions' of the Virgin – more than in the previous three centuries combined.... Taken together, these visions point to what the Marian Movement believes is a millennial 'Age of Mary.'"<sup>19</sup>

We might expect this phenomenon to occur in countries that are predominately Catholic, but apparitions are being reported from Japan to Africa, from Korea to Australia, from Iraq to Israel, from Egypt to Syria. Whether looking deep within the former Soviet Union or among

the peoples of India, one thing is found in common – they are all allegedly being visited by a woman who calls herself Mary, the Queen of Heaven, Our Lady. Father Robert Faricy, quoted in the book *Queen of the Cosmos*, states:

Never in the history of Christianity has the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to so many people over so long a period of time with such regularity. Moreover, it seems that the apparitions at Medjugorje have ushered in a new Marian age. There are reports of her appearing everywhere.<sup>20</sup>

In his book *Call of the Ages*, author Thomas W. Petrisko writes: “Millions and millions on all continents of the globe have heard and responded to the Virgin Mary’s apparitions and messages. Indeed, there is a significant upswing in attendance at Marian shrines everywhere.”<sup>21</sup>

The Rev. Charles Dickson, Ph.D., a Lutheran minister, reported this trend in *Queen Magazine*: “People around the world are traveling enormous distances to demonstrate in person their veneration of the Mother of Our Lord.”<sup>22</sup> He goes on to state that France alone has 937 pilgrimage shrines and that at the most popular Marian shrine in France, attendance has increased ten percent in two years.

There are over 1,500 Marian pilgrimage shrines in Italy, which account for 85% of all their shrines.<sup>23</sup> These are not backyard grottos, but rather significant shrines to which Marian followers pilgrimage. And while devotion to Mary is most noticeable in Catholic countries, Marian devotion is attracting an enormous following from every religion, race and nation.

Concerning the growing number of apparitions worldwide, noted Catholic Marian author Michael Brown wrote: “[During the second half of the 20th century Marian apparitions] grew to remarkable proportion ... if every daily or weekly apparition is counted in cases where a seer had more than one, the number would not be calculable....the French periodical *Le Monde* once estimated twenty-one thousand apparitions between 1976 and 1986!”<sup>24</sup>



**OUR LADY'S ECUMENICAL PEACE PLAN**

A consistent message given by the thousands of apparitions currently manifesting worldwide is one of peace, unity, and tolerance. At Medjugorje, the apparition of Mary has stated:

Dear children, today I invite you to peace. I have come here as the Queen of Peace and I desire to enrich you with my Motherly Peace.... I invite you to become carriers and witnesses of my peace to this unpeaceful world. Let peace rule in the whole world.<sup>25</sup>

In another message, Mary told the seers: "Tell this priest, tell everyone, that it is you who are divided on earth. The Muslims and the Orthodox, for the same reason as Catholics, are equal before my Son and I. You are all my children."<sup>26</sup> Mary's message of peace, unity, and tolerance is one that a distressed and perplexed world craves.

Her reported messages in Betania, Venezuela typify her words of hope given around the world: "My children, I am giving you a piece of Heaven.... Betania, Venezuela. It is for everyone, not only Catholics.... My message is of faith, love, and hope. More than anything, it brings reconciliation between people and nations. It is the only thing that can save this century from war and eternal death."<sup>27</sup>

According to Charles Dickson, author of *A Protestant Pastor Looks at Mary*, Mary transcends our cultural and even religious boundaries:

A Muslim student visiting Rome wants especially to see the Church of Santa Maria Maggiore. Surprised? The poetry of a Syrian mystic is replete with Marian devotion. Surprised? Martin Luther recommended prayer to Mary. Surprised? An American Pentecostalist minister begins to visit shrines of Marian apparitions. Surprised? Muslims refer to Mary as *il-Sittneh*, or Our Lady. Surprised? A chapter in the Koran is named after her. Surprised? Mary's deep kindness as a mother is portrayed in Chinese art. Surprised? And now a presbyterian minister has written a book recommending praying the rosary. Still surprised? ... a closer investigation of both past history and current events points out that Mary has a universal appeal that transcends our cultural, geographical, and even religious boundaries.<sup>28</sup>

## LET THE WALLS COME DOWN

In 2003, the *Los Angeles Times* included an article entitled “Our Lady: Not Just for Catholics”. In the article they note that the apparition known as the Virgin of Guadalupe, long-revered by Latinos, now occupies a place in other denominations. The trend is particularly noticeable at Episcopal and Lutheran churches, whose liturgical traditions are closest to Catholicism. In the article they raise this very interesting question:

Our Lady of Guadalupe’s appearance in non-Catholic services has scholars and others wondering whether the beloved apparition that has united Mexicans for nearly five centuries can bring together Christian denominations.<sup>29</sup>

In 2005, *Time Magazine* featured an image of Mary as The Mother of God on the cover with the title “Hail, Mary – Catholics have long revered her, but now Protestants are finding their own reasons to celebrate the mother of Jesus.” The article explains the stunning trend of the growing Marian devotion among Protestant churches:

In a shift whose ideological breadth is unusual in the fragmented Protestant world, a long-standing wall around Mary appears to be eroding...Mary is also gaining popularity at Protestant divinity schools, where her icons adorn future pastors’ walls.<sup>30</sup>

The article cites examples that were previously unimaginable. For instance, in a Methodist church on Chicago’s South Side, flanking the altar are two Mary statues with fresh roses at their feet, and hanging from the hands of the baby Jesus is a Rosary. The altar cover presents the church’s most stunning image: Mary again, this time totally surrounded by a multi-colored halo.<sup>31</sup>

R. Albert Mohler, Jr. – president of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary – makes the following comments concerning the *Time Magazine* article on Mary:

The *Time* cover story is part of a larger phenomenon, with many mainline Protestants turning to a reconsideration of Mary and incorporating the veneration of Mary into personal devotions and corporate worship. Some are going so far as to acknowledge Mary

as an intercessor, addressing prayers to her as well as to other saints. Surprisingly enough, some Protestants now argue that believers should pray to Mary, and should request her intercession.<sup>32</sup>

### THE QUEEN PROMISES UNITY

Almost all of the apparitions have stated that Mary is going to usher in a new era of peace and unity. Under her mantle all people will gather in peace and solve the problems facing the world. Her emphasis on unity and ecumenism has increasingly garnered attention from the media. The *Los Angeles Times*, in an article entitled “Mary’s Rising Popularity Goes Beyond Faith” reported that:

A growing number of Americans from all Christian denominations are reaching out to the Virgin Mary as a comforting conduit of spirituality and a symbol of peace in troubled times.... Reported sightings of Mary have steadily increased across the globe in recent years.... Her maternal gaze seems to have an ecumenical appeal.... It’s not just Roman Catholics who are interested in Mary and following the apparitions.... Each day, thousands of people bring their troubles to the sites where the Virgin is claimed to have appeared.<sup>33</sup>

One of the most widely witnessed series of apparitions occurred at a Coptic Orthodox church in Zeitoun, Egypt, a suburb of Cairo. People from many countries and of varied religious backgrounds witnessed the apparitions from 1968 to 1973. It is estimated that the total number of witnesses numbered in the millions! Muslims, Copts, Roman Catholics, Protestants, and others were united in their adoration of the Lady who seemed to be composed of light. Muslims chanted from the Koran: “Mary, God has chosen thee. And purified thee; He has chosen thee above all women.” At Zeitoun, as well as countless other sites around the globe, the phenomenon draws together people from every conceivable background.

The following message from an apparition who identifies herself as “the Lady and Mother of All Nations” states her clear mission:

Try to understand the reason for My coming on this day. The Lord Jesus Christ has selected this great day for “the Lady of All Nations.” Her mission is to establish unity among Her nations. She is sent to make one great Community of Her nations. To gather all nations into one Community, that is the task set before the world in this present time, which I have heralded repeatedly.<sup>34</sup>

### THE QUEEN'S APPEAL

In 1996, *Life Magazine* featured Mary on the cover and asked these questions: “Why are two billion Hail Marys said daily? Why did five million people, many non-Christian, visit Lourdes this year to drink the healing waters? Why did more than ten million trek to Guadalupe to pray to Our Lady?...Why the apparitions? Why are Mary hymns creeping into Methodist songbooks?...What is it about Mary?”<sup>35</sup> The *Life* article goes on to list numerous apparitions and to quote various statistics. For instance, *Life* notes that “In Italy, 50 weeping Madonna statues have been reported in the past two years.”

*Life* explains that Mary’s popularity is not just among Catholics: “One of the intriguing aspects of the latest rise of Mary is this: The emotional need for her is so irresistible to a troubled world that people without an obvious link to the Virgin are being drawn to her. It’s not news that Muslims revere Mary as a pure and holy saint – she’s mentioned 34 times in the Koran, ...but to see large numbers of Muslims making pilgrimages to Christian Marian shrines is a remarkable thing. Interdenominational Marian prayer groups are springing up throughout the world.”<sup>36</sup>

There can be no doubt that her ecumenical messages and her maternal appearances attract multitudes. In addition, there is another aspect to the apparitions that is also drawing many. Reported miracles, signs, and wonders have risen sharply in recent decades. In a world that seeks interaction with the supernatural, it is no surprise that many flock to the miraculous. These miracles, if true, would rival the miracles performed in Moses’ day. Consider the phenomenon known as “the Miracle of the Sun” commonly reported at sites around the globe.

**MIRACLE OF THE SUN**

At the Fatima apparition site, on October 13, 1917, 70,000 people witnessed the sun appear to fall from the sky. These eyewitnesses said that they watched as the sun fell from heaven toward the crowd and then returned to its normal position in the sky. Many thought this was signaling the end of the world and were sure they would perish. Here is a brief recount of the events at Fatima:

Just when it seemed that the ball of fire would fall upon and destroy them, the miracle ceased and the sun resumed its normal place in the sky, shining forth as peacefully as ever. When the people arose from the ground, cries of astonishment were heard on all sides. Their clothes, which had been soaking wet and muddy, now were clean and dry. Many of the sick and crippled had been cured of their afflictions.<sup>37</sup>

The Miracle of the Sun is a common, albeit fantastic, event at many apparition sites. At dozens of locations, literally millions have reported the sun miracle. It happened before a crowd of 100,000 in Puerto Rico on April 23, 1991, which was the 38th anniversary of the apparitions there.<sup>38</sup> It happened again in the Philippines on March 5, 1993, in front of a crowd of 300,000.<sup>39</sup> In El Cajas, Ecuador 120,000 pilgrims were in attendance when the Miracle of the Sun occurred there in the late 1980s. Similar events have been recorded at such apparition sites as Medjugorje, Bosnia; Denver, Colorado; Lubbock, Texas; and Conyers, Georgia.

The Miracle of the Sun is one of many supernatural wonders reported at apparition sites around the globe. Here is an abridged summary of the miracles reported at just one apparition site:

The appearances of the Mother of God in Medjugorje have been accompanied by a number of miracles, including physical healings (now numbered at 360), reports of the sun dancing or spinning in the sky, rosary links and medals that apparently change from silver to gold, and other phenomenon.... Just as Christ worked miracles during his earthly life to authenticate his teaching and ministry, so Our Lady of Medjugorje seems to be using them to validate her presence and messages, which, as always, direct us to her Son.<sup>40</sup>

**QUEEN OF ALL**

While the title of this book may seem presumptuous, as we continue to document, it will become clear that the Queen of Heaven is truly gathering a massive, global following from every religion and race. The many books on Marian apparitions express that there is a growing consensus that the world is looking for a heavenly Mother – one who is tender, merciful, and non-judgmental, with the power and influence to solve our problems. Global peace, unity, and tolerance are repeatedly heralded by the Queen of Peace – as she is often called. This is a common reason for the Marian apparition's universal appeal. The Lady and Mother of All Nations – a title she ascribed to herself at a popular apparition site – presents herself as kind and approachable, while at the same time claiming heavenly access and authority.

In addition to maternal charm, the apparitions draw millions due to the numerous reported signs, wonders, and miracles. The testimony of pilgrims to a physical or emotional healing has proven irresistible to people from all walks of life. This combination of qualities that the apparitions put forth – a caring Mother, a powerful intercessor, a bridge-builder, and a miracle worker – has proved successful in bringing together multitudes who would not normally associate. In these difficult days, when our global problems seem insurmountable, a growing number are turning to the Queen of All as perhaps the world's best advocate.

## CHAPTER 2

# QUEEN OF ROME

### **BRIDGE BUILDER**

The Queen of Peace has succeeded in bringing multitudes from varied religious backgrounds together. Presently millions of Eastern Orthodox and Anglicans venerate and esteem her.<sup>41</sup> A growing number of Protestants pray to her and go on pilgrimage to her apparition sites. And as the following chapters will document, millions of Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, New Agers, and others revere and honor her. Truly the apparitions of Mary have garnered a global following.

However, without doubt, her strongest allegiance and greatest following is among the over one billion members of the Roman Catholic Church. She is rightly titled the Queen and Mother of the Church of Rome.

### **MOTHER OF ROME**

In 1984 then Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, the former head of the Roman Catholic Church's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith declared that, "...one of the signs of our times is that the announcements of 'Marian Apparitions' are multiplying all over the world. For example, reports are arriving from Africa and from other continents..."<sup>42</sup>

On April 19, 2005 Joseph Ratzinger succeeded Pope John Paul II as the new head of the Roman Catholic Church. In his first public greeting Pope Benedict XVI ended with the following benediction:

In the joy of the risen Lord, confident of his permanent help, let us go forward. The Lord will help us. Mary, his Most Holy Mother,

is on our side. Thank you.<sup>43</sup>

On the very next day, during the new pope's message at the end of the Eucharistic Concelebration with the members of the College of Cardinals in the Sistine Chapel, he said:

To support me in my promise, I call on the motherly intercession of Mary Most Holy, in whose hands I place the present and future of the Church and of myself.<sup>44</sup>

And again on April 22, 2005, during Pope Benedict XVI's address to the members of the College of Cardinals, he said:

I entrust all of us and the expectations, hopes and worries of the entire community of Christians to the Virgin Mother of God, who accompanied the steps of the newborn Church with her silent presence and comforted the faith of the Apostles. I ask you to walk under the motherly protection of Mary...<sup>45</sup>

Three days later, on April 25, the new pope spoke these words while addressing German pilgrims:

And let us pray to Mary, Mother of the Lord, so that she will enable us to feel her love as a woman and a mother, in which we can understand all of the depth of Christ's mystery.<sup>46</sup>

#### **TRUST IN THE APPARITION OF MARY**

The new pope has repeatedly invoked Mary and entrusted Rome and the world into her maternal hands. Furthermore, Pope Benedict, like his predecessor, has exhorted all to turn to and trust in the apparition of Mary. For example on May 11, 2005, Pope Benedict exhorted the faithful to "turn incessantly and with confidence" to the Virgin of Fatima:

Day after tomorrow, the liturgical memorial will be celebrated of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Fatima. Beloved, I exhort you to turn incessantly and with confidence to the Virgin, entrusting to her each one of your needs.<sup>47</sup>

Just two days later – on May 13th 2005 – only one month into his pontificate, Pope Benedict XVI placed the Roman Catholic Church



into the maternal hands of Our Lady of Guadalupe during a visit to venerate her image in the Vatican Gardens. Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared in 1531 to seer Juan Diego, and remains one of the most popular apparitional manifestations. *L'Osservatore Romano* published on its front page the prayer recited by the new pope before the white marble statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe – which is located at the highest point of the Vatican Gardens:

Holy Mary, who under the advocacy of Our Lady of Guadalupe, are invoked as mother of the men and women of the Mexican nation and of Latin America, encouraged by the love you inspire in us, we again place our lives in your maternal hands. You who are present in the Vatican Gardens, reign in the hearts of all mothers of the world and in our hearts. With great hope, we come to you and trust in you.<sup>48</sup>

Since being elected as shepherd of the Roman Catholic Church, Pope Benedict has consistently invoked Mary and pointed the faithful to her maternal care on dozens of occasions. On August 25th 2005, during the Feast of the Assumption of Mary, the new pope explained that the now omnipresent Queen of Heaven is always close to us. She knows our hearts, helps us, and listens to each one of us:

Mary is taken up body and soul into the glory of heaven, and with God and in God she is Queen of heaven and earth... While she lived on this earth she could only be close to a few people... Being in God and with God, she is close to each one of us, knows our hearts, can hear our prayers, can help us with her motherly kindness... She always listens to us, and is always close to us, and being Mother of the Son, participates in the power of the Son and in his goodness. We can always entrust the whole of our lives to this Mother, who is not far from any one of us.<sup>49</sup>

Though the Queen of Heaven is available to all and Mother of all, she is especially the Mother of Rome. For instance, on December 8th 2005, the 40th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council, Pope Benedict once again drew attention to the centrality of Mary and her role in the Catholic Church. Benedict reminded his audience at St. Peter's Basilica that Mary is the "Mother of the Church," and praised

Mary for having “watched with motherly care” over the life of the Church. This final quote confirms that the new pope believes Mary has guided the popes and the Church of Rome down through the centuries.

Mary has watched with motherly care over the pontificates of my venerated predecessors, each of who, with great pastoral wisdom, guided Peter’s ship along the route of authentic conciliar renewal... I go this afternoon to Piazza di Spagna at the foot of the statue of the Immaculate Conception...to entrust to her the beloved city of Rome, the Church and all of humanity.<sup>50</sup>

### JOHN PAUL’S MARY DEVOTION

Will the new pope abandon himself completely to the apparition of Mary? Time will tell, but no one can doubt that his predecessor did. For over a quarter of a century Pope John Paul II made his Marian devotion very evident. John Paul stated, “If I wasn’t a Pope, I’d be in Medjugorje already.”<sup>51</sup> He visited numerous Marian shrines and apparition sites and his Marian devotion was truly remarkable. In his book, *Crossing The Threshold of Hope*, the pope wrote: “I think what I have said sufficiently explains the Marian devotion of the present Pope and, above all, his attitude of total abandonment to Mary – his *Totus Tuus*.”<sup>52</sup>

Pope John Paul II believed that if victory comes to the Universal Church it will be brought by Mary. In his book, *Crossing The Threshold of Hope*, he made this revealing statement:

After my election as Pope, as I became more involved in the problems of the universal Church, I came to have a similar conviction: **On this universal level, if victory comes it will be brought by Mary.** Christ will conquer through her, because he wants the Church’s victories now and in the future to be linked to her.

I held this conviction even though I did not yet know very much about Fatima. I could see, however, that there was a certain continuity among La Salette, Lourdes, and Fatima - and, in distant past, our Polish Jasna Gora.

And thus we come to May 13, 1981, when I was wounded by

gunshots fired in St. Peter's Square. At first, I did not pay attention to the fact that the assassination attempt had occurred on the exact anniversary of the day Mary appeared to the three children at Fatima in Portugal and spoke to them the words that now, at the end of this century, seem to be close to their fulfillment.<sup>53</sup>

### **CONSECRATION TO THE APPARITION**

John Paul credited the apparition of Our Lady of Fatima with saving his life during the 1981 assassination attempt.<sup>54</sup> Shortly after the assault on his life, he consecrated the entire world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.<sup>55</sup> The pope's consecration was done in response to the request made by Our Lady of Fatima.

Furthermore, in October 2000, John Paul ordered the miraculous statue of Our Lady of Fatima to the Vatican for the Great Jubilee. On Sunday October 8, Pope John Paul with 1,500 bishops – the largest group to assemble since Vatican II – entrusted humanity and the third millennium to Our Lady of Fatima.<sup>56</sup> This is extremely significant. Over one-third of the Catholic Church's bishops, and the pope himself, entrusted the world to the apparition known as Our Lady of Fatima!

Certainly the apparition has had the pope's and Rome's attention. It seems more than coincidence that apparitions of Mary increased substantially during John Paul's pontificate. Unquestionably Pope John Paul's many visits to Marian shrines and apparition sites around the world indicate that he believed Mary was appearing and that her appearances were of utmost importance. Furthermore, the pope's strong Marian devotion strengthened Marian devotion worldwide.

The following quote given by Pope John Paul II in 2002 has been echoed throughout his pontificate. He and the church that he led, clearly proclaimed that she, the Queen of Heaven, is the one to whom they entrust their future. Addressing Mary as "Most Holy Mother" the pope prayed:

To you [Mary] I give back all the fruits of my life and my ministry.  
To you I entrust the future of the Church; to you I offer my nation;  
in you do I trust and once more declare: Totus Tuus, Maria!<sup>57</sup>

### **MARIAN MOVEMENT OF CATHOLIC PRIESTS**

Globally, Catholic Marian groups and conferences are mushrooming. One group alone, the Blue Army, boasts over 20 million members.<sup>59</sup> Another group known as the Marian Movement of Priests is supported by at least 400 cardinals and bishops, more than 100,000 priests, and millions of religious and faithful around the world.

Keep in mind that there are only about 400,000 priests in the entire Roman Catholic Church. This means that over one quarter of all priests are active members of the Marian Movement of Priests! And this is only one Marian group.

Father Stefano Gobbi, the head of the Marian Movement of Priests, often receives messages from the Queen of Heaven. In many of her messages, she confirms the inextricable link between her apparitions and the Catholic Church, particularly in these last times:

But in the furious struggle of these last times, this struggle between heaven and earth, between the heavenly spirits and the demons, between the Woman and the Dragon, I appear as a great sign of my greatest victory....For this great victory, I have formed for myself the cohort of all my little children who, from every part of the world, have responded to me with a yes. With my Marian Movement of Priests, I have brought my invitation to the farthest confines of the earth, and I have formed for myself my victorious army.<sup>60</sup>

No one could deny that the Roman Catholic Church – its head, and multitudes within it – are enlisted in Mary’s army. Of course, throughout history, the apparition has been central to the Church of Rome and its teachings.

### **MARY’S INFLUENCE IN THE CHURCH**

Without doubt, the apparition of Mary has always had Rome’s attention. For over a thousand years, many previous popes were devout followers of the apparition of Mary. For example, an apparition appeared to Pope John XXII and ordered him to make known to all that in the Saturday after death she would deliver from purgatory all who wore the Carmelite scapular. This was proclaimed by that pontiff in a Bull, and it

was confirmed in subsequent years by Alexander V, Pius V, Gregory XIII and Paul V.<sup>61</sup> Millions of Catholics have worn the scapular ever since.

The apparition of Mary has even assisted the papacy in times of need. For example, when Pope Pius IX proclaimed the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception in 1854, there was concern that the new doctrine would not be well received by many Catholics. However in 1858, just four years after this doctrine was declared, Our Lady of Lourdes appeared with the salutation, "I am the Immaculate Conception." No apparition up to that time had ever referred to herself in that manner, and in so doing, the Immaculate Virgin herself gave supernatural confirmation to the declaration.<sup>62</sup>

In 1870, just before Pius IX introduced the doctrine of Papal Infallibility, he received confirmation from an apparition that he should proceed with the new proclamation. She even assured him of her assistance at every step of the way.<sup>63</sup> Of course, Pius IX is just one of a long list of popes who were reportedly aided by the Queen of Heaven during difficult times.

In his encyclical entitled *Le Pelerinage de Lourdes*, Pope Pius XII recognized the inextricable link between the popes and the apparition of Mary. On July 2, 1957, this pope declared, "This century of Marian devotion has also in a certain way woven close bonds between the See of Peter and the shrine in the Pyrenees, bonds which We are pleased to acknowledge."<sup>64</sup> His official encyclical was given at Rome, from Saint Peter's, on the feast of the Visitation of the Most Holy Virgin. In it, Pius XII explained how the apparitional appearances at Lourdes played a crucial role in confirming Catholic dogma:

The fiftieth anniversary of the definition of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin gave Saint Pius X occasion to bear witness in a solemn document to the historic connection between this act of the Magisterium and the apparitions at Lourdes. "Pius IX," he wrote, "had hardly defined it to be of Catholic faith that Mary was from her very origin exempt from sin, when the Virgin herself began performing miracles at Lourdes."

The Virgin Mary herself desired this tie: "What the Sovereign

Pontiff defined in Rome through his infallible Magisterium, the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God, blessed among all women, wanted to confirm by her own words, it seems, when shortly afterward she manifested herself by a famous apparition at the grotto of Massabielle..."<sup>65</sup>

Pius IX, Pius X, and Pius XII are among the long list of popes who relate the importance of the Queen of Heaven's apparitional manifestations, and how these supernatural appearances have helped guide the Roman Catholic Church through the centuries.

### **ROME'S ECUMENICAL NETWORK**

Catholic Priest and visionary Father Stefano Gobbi has received several messages from Mary confirming her global manifestations. Here is one such example: "With extraordinary signs which I am giving in every part of the world, through my messages and through my so frequent apparitions, I am pointing out to everyone the approaching of the great day of the Lord."<sup>66</sup>

While apparitional messages are given in every part of the world, it is no surprise that these messages are received primarily by Catholic visionaries. Furthermore, the vast majority of apparition sites are Roman Catholic. And it is Rome which the apparitional Mary has guided down through the centuries.

While the Queen of Heaven makes it clear that she has come for ALL her children, not just Catholics, non-Catholics who go to apparition sites skeptical, often find that they too have been touched by the Queen of Rome. This has resulted in many non-Catholics converting to the Roman Catholic faith.

So while the Queen promotes unity – she means unity under her Church. Consider the following message received by Father Gobbi, the head of the Marian Movement of Priests. This message was distributed to over 100,000 member priests, numerous bishops, archbishops, and cardinals, and millions of lay followers throughout the world. It also carries the Imprimatur.

A true reunification of Christians is not possible unless it be in the perfection of truth. And truth has been kept intact only in the

Catholic Church, which must preserve it, defend it and proclaim it to all without fear.<sup>67</sup>

## **ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT TOWARD ROME**

How far along is the Queen of Heaven's reunification plan? Is the pope, whom she guides, currently active in drawing all Christians under the Roman Catholic Church? The Queen proclaims that there will come a time when all of Christendom will be "reunified" under the Roman Church. Are we seeing this trend today?

The ecumenical movement has been gaining momentum for some years now. However, current events that have unfolded as this book was in the process of being written overwhelmingly reveal that Rome's unification plan has accelerated. Consider some of the recent actual headlines which document this pattern:

- July 4, 2005 – "Pope hopes for new Catechism Compendium to help all Christians become 'catechists and evangelizers'"<sup>68</sup>
- July 30, 2005 – "Catholics, evangelicals growing closer"<sup>69</sup>
- Aug. 19, 2005 – "Dialogue Will Unite Christians, Says Pope: Meets With Representatives of Christian Churches"<sup>70</sup>
- Aug. 29, 2005 – "Evangelical bookstores open to Catholic materials"<sup>71</sup>
- Sept. 5, 2005 – "Ecumenism is obligatory for all Christians, Pope says"<sup>72</sup>
- Nov. 7, 2005 – "Pope Urges Better Dialogue With Lutherans"<sup>73</sup>
- Nov. 10, 2005 – "Devotion to Mary growing among Protestants in England"<sup>74</sup>
- Dec. 10, 2005 – "Pope Invites Methodists to Join Catholic-Lutheran Agreement"<sup>75</sup>
- Jan. 8, 2006 – "Pontiff Backs Dialogue With 'Reformed Churches'"<sup>76</sup>

Rome's insistent ecumenical goal is summarized by these words from Pope Benedict – "The search for full and visible unity among all Christ's disciples is a particularly urgent need of our times."<sup>77</sup>

It is also evident that the Marian reunification agenda is not exclusively for Christian denominations. Rome, inspired by the Queen of Heaven, has a global plan that invites all religions to join the fold.

Once more, the events that are underway indicate there are many religious pathways destined for the Queen's Church. Consider these recent article titles:

- May 25, 2005 – "Nigerians Blend Catholicism, traditional supernatural beliefs"<sup>78</sup>
- July 27, 2005 – "Chicago cardinal, imam call for improved relations between Catholics and Muslims"<sup>79</sup>
- Sept. 1, 2005 – "Pope calls on people who believe in the one God to unite and cooperate to restore peace"<sup>80</sup>
- Sept. 12, 2005 – "Christians, Muslims Worship Together"<sup>81</sup>
- Oct. 26, 2005 – "Catholic priests seek to adopt Hindu rituals"<sup>82</sup>
- Nov. 8, 2005 – "Pope reaffirms commitment to inter-religious cooperation"<sup>83</sup>
- Nov. 14, 2005 – "Jewish-Catholic Ties Advancing, Says Benedict XVI"<sup>84</sup>
- Dec. 1, 2005 – "Peace Requires Christian-Muslim Dialogue, Says Pope"<sup>85</sup>
- Dec. 1, 2005 – "Muslim Says Turks Esteem Benedict XVI"<sup>86</sup>

The above headlines (and many more) provide undeniable evidence that speaks with astounding clarity. Rome's ecumenical activity is sweeping the world like a tsunami, engulfing the majority of the world's population.<sup>87</sup> Will the Queen of Rome soon become the Queen of All?



## ROME'S FUTURE

Down through the centuries, Marian apparitions have guided popes, prelates, and Catholic saints. Apparitions have been vital in forming Church dogma. And apparitions have garnered the support of tens of millions of lay Catholics worldwide.

Thousands of alleged apparitions draw millions of faithful devotees – and her army is increasing. The Queen's army consists of souls from every corner of the globe and from every religious affiliation. Yet, she is without doubt first and foremost the Queen of Rome. Will the Queen of Heaven and Rome soon unite all religions under her mantle?

Pope Pius IX made this remarkable prediction in 1878 concerning Mary's role to establish the world under her Church, the Roman Catholic Church:

We expect that the Immaculate Virgin and Mother of God, Mary, through her most powerful intercession, will bring it about that our Holy Mother the Catholic Church...will gain in influence from day to day among all nations and in all places, prosper and rule from ocean to ocean, from the great stream to the ends of the earth; that she will enjoy peace and liberty...and there will be then one fold and one shepherd.<sup>88</sup>

Will multitudes convert to the Roman Catholic religion through the apparition's powerful intercession? What does the future hold? Consider this final quote from Father Calloway – a young priest who serves as assistant rector at the National Shrine of Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, Massachusetts:

Our Lady is building up this army, this whole new generation, layer by layer. Rank by rank they are coming out of seminaries to take their places. There's a whole generation of priests coming, and they're just like me. No nonsense. I always tell people, get ready, because it's coming to a parish near you...We've been formed by the Blessed Virgin Mary and her apparitions. So many of the guys I knew in the seminary, they loved things like Medjugorje or Betania or Amsterdam or Kibeho. They don't have a problem with it. They bite onto truth like a shark, and they're going to be the guys in the seminaries teaching. They're going to be in the parishes. One cardinal said if it were not for Medjugorje, he would have hardly any seminarians.<sup>89</sup>



### CHAPTER 3

# QUEEN OF ISLAM

Think of the regions of our world today that are potential time bombs – powder kegs waiting to be ignited by some religious dispute. Can anyone imagine how religious differences could be resolved in these areas? Who alive on planet earth today could act as a mediator or diplomat that has the ability to bring about a peaceful resolution? Certainly for such an historic event to occur, a supernatural miracle would be required. There are some who are saying that Marian apparitions and her messages provide such a possibility.

While the title of this chapter may seem strange to the reader, it is appropriate, as we will see. How could the Queen of Heaven have any influence on the millions of Muslims who follow Allah? Those who have studied the Muslim's holy book, known as the Koran, may be aware of the answer. First, the Koran portrays Jesus Christ as a prophet, unique in His preincarnate nature, miraculous birth, miracles and moral stature. Muslims revere Jesus Christ. As the Koran states:

The angels said to Mary: “[Allah] bids you rejoice in a Word from Him. His name is the Messiah, Jesus son of Mary. He shall be noble in this world and in the world to come, and shall be one of those who are favored. He shall preach to men in his cradle and in the prime of manhood, and shall lead a righteous life.”<sup>90</sup>

It is interesting to note that in the Koran, Jesus is almost exclusively referred to as “Jesus son of Mary,” rather than “Son of God.” The Koran vehemently denies that Jesus is the Son of God, yet it holds both Jesus and Mary in high esteem.

More important to our context is the fact that Mary is highly honored in both the Koran and Hadith. Muslims consider Mary the greatest of all women.<sup>91</sup> Furthermore, Muhammad is reported to have said that Mary reached the “level of perfection.”<sup>92</sup>

Muslims, like Catholics, refer to her as Our Lady (*Sayyida*). She is also venerated as a pure and holy saint in the Islamic world. In fact in the Koran, Jesus and Mary are considered pure and saintly. In contrast Muhammad is told to ask forgiveness for his sins (Suras 40:55; 48:1-2).

### MARY IN THE KORAN

Mary is mentioned no less than 34 times in the Koran. In addition, the 19th surah (chapter) of the Koran is named after her. Based on these facts alone, it is apparent that “Our Lady” is surely seen as blessed above all women by orthodox Muslims. Consider the following three quotes taken directly from the Koran:

And remember the angels’ words to Mary. They said: “[Allah] has chosen you. He has made you pure and exalted you above womankind.”<sup>93</sup>

The Messiah, the son of Mary, was no more than an apostle: other apostles passed away before him. His mother was a saintly woman.<sup>94</sup>

Whereupon [Jesus] spoke and said: “I am the servant of [Allah]. He has given me the Book and ordained me a prophet. His blessing is upon me wherever I go, and He has exhorted me to be steadfast in prayer and to give alms as long as I shall live. He has exhorted me to honor my mother and has purged me of vanity and wickedness.”<sup>95</sup>

### MUSLIMS AND APPARITIONS OF MARY

While it is apparent that Mary is considered by adherents of the Islamic religion to be the most blessed woman ever, does this necessarily mean that Muslims would respond to Marian apparitions or signs and wonders as many Catholics, Orthodox, and Protestants do? Would Muslims listen to these apparitions and heed the messages? In order to

answer this question, we can consider an apparition of Mary that appeared to millions of Muslims during the 20th century.

At a Coptic Orthodox church in Zeitoun, Egypt, a suburb of Cairo, a remarkable series of events occurred. A woman that onlookers believed was Mary, appeared in the form of an apparition, performing signs, wonders, and healings. This same woman appeared several nights each week for years. The vast majority of spectators were Muslim. Here is a description of the events surrounding the Zeitoun apparitions:

The Zeitoun apparitions...were seen by everyone present ... the persons present at apparitional events there varied from several thousand to over two hundred thousand per night. Total witnesses perhaps numbered into the millions.

Several nights each week, thousands of Moslems (who constituted most of the crowds) fell to their knees on prayer rugs spread wherever space permitted, and wept before the magnificent, wondrous, glorious form of Our Lady from Heaven. All witnesses agree that the Lady seemed to be composed of light that usually was intense, yet lessened occasionally.

The apparitions of "Mary, the Mother of Jesus" were serenely animate, moving from one side of the church roof to another, as if to provide a direct view to all the surrounding throng, from which many called to her to come their way. She often responded to the singing or chanting of the crowd, appearing to bow in acknowledgment, greeting and blessing. Sometimes she made gestures of prayer, or held out and waved what appeared to be an olive branch. At other times, thousands watched her radiant form, which was often aglow with bluish white light, as she held in her left arm what certainly appeared to be the baby Jesus.

The Zeitoun apparitions seemed to affect all witnesses, including hundreds who were spontaneously healed. Many such cases have been documented by Dr. Shafik Abd El Malik, M.B., B.Ch., M.D., Faculty of Medicine, Ain Shams University, who headed a commission of seven doctors to study the miraculous cures.<sup>96</sup>

**A SIGN TO MANKIND**

Think about the implications – millions of Muslims responding to an apparition of Mary, falling to their knees, singing, chanting and calling upon Mary. Why did these followers of Allah respond to these signs and wonders? Why were they so sure that this apparitional woman was Mary? If events like these repeat in the 21st century for the entire world to behold, will the Islamic community follow the Queen of Heaven? While we can't state with certainty what will happen, the following quotes taken directly from the Koran may lend some insight:

We [Allah] made the son of Mary and his mother a sign to mankind, and gave them shelter on a peaceful hillside watered by a fresh spring. Apostles! Eat of that which is wholesome, and do good works: I have knowledge of all your actions. Your community is but one community, and I am your only Lord: therefore fear me. Yet men have divided themselves into factions, each rejoicing in his own doctrines. Leave them in their error till a time appointed.<sup>97</sup>

And to the woman [Mary] who kept her chastity, We [Allah] breathed into her of Our spirit, and made her and her son a sign to all mankind. Your community is but one community, and I am Your only Lord. Therefore serve Me. Men have divided themselves into factions, but to Us shall they all return.<sup>98</sup>

**UNITY THROUGH SIGNS**

Not only are Mary and her son a sign to mankind, the Koran also lays heavy emphasis on signs. Here are some examples –

Momentous signs have come to you from your Lord [Allah]. He that sees them shall himself have much to gain, but he who is blind to them shall lose much indeed.<sup>99</sup>

Then say: "Praise be to [Allah]! He will show you His signs and you will recognize them..."<sup>100</sup>

The Hour of Doom is drawing near, and the moon is cleft in two. Yet, when they see a sign, the unbelievers turn their backs and say: "Ingenious sorcery!"<sup>101</sup>

We will show them Our signs in all the regions of the earth and in their own souls, until they clearly see that this [The Koran] is the truth.<sup>102</sup>

If the Koran states that Mary is a sign to mankind, and a growing number of Muslims are experiencing “Our Lady” at Marian apparition sites, is it possible that signs from a future apparition will persuade Muslims that Mary has been sent as a last days’ sign from Allah? Is it reasonable to speculate that the Queen, through signs and wonders, could convince many Muslims to become part of a world religion that contains the name of Christ? Time will tell.

### MARY: ISLAM’S FAITHFUL EXAMPLE

To better understand the Muslim mind with regard to Mary, the Catholic News agency *Zenit: The World Seen From Rome*, interviewed Iranian Muslim scholar and theologian Sherazade Hushmand. What follows is their question and answer session which sheds even greater light onto why Muslims venerate and admire Mary:

Question: Of what significance is the figure of Mary to Muslims?

Hushmand: She is very present in the Koran, which presents her, specifically, as Mary Immaculate. In the third sura, beginning with verse 34 and subsequent ones, the Koran speaks about this aspect of Mary, about her total purity. Speaking about Mary, one of the verses talks about freedom. The woman of Hemram, who is Mary’s mother, prays to God saying: “God, I dedicate to you the one I have in the womb, and I dedicate her so that she will be free, absolutely free.” This word is used only once in the Koran, and only for Mary. This freedom is an absolute freedom from all what might be seen as sin, evil, failure, weakness. Mary is pure of all this. Then comes God’s affirmation: “I accept her.”

Question: Do all followers of Islam believe this?

Hushmand: In Chapter 66, the last verse, 12, the Koran says: “Do you want me to give you a faithful example to follow, valid for all the world’s believers?” Mary is proposed there as the example. This is very strong – because not only is Mary an example and a symbol

for Christians to follow, but also in the Koran, Mary becomes a symbol and model for all believers, also for Muslims themselves.<sup>103</sup>

## MUSLIMS AND CATHOLICS

The Koran repeatedly infers that Allah inspired the Bible. Though the Koran does not teach it, many Muslims allege that both Jews and Christians have since corrupted the text. Even so, Islam esteems the Bible. Also, it is interesting to note that both Islam and the Roman Catholic Church believe that Allah and the God of the Bible are the same. Quoting from the Catholic Catechism we read:

The plan of salvation also includes those who acknowledge the Creator, in the first place amongst whom are the Muslims; these profess to hold the faith of Abraham, and together with us they adore the one, merciful God, mankind's judge on the last day.<sup>106</sup>

How will the Muslims be included in this “plan of salvation”? Could the apparitions that perform numerous signs and wonders, impact Catholics and Muslims who worship the same God? Could they possibly unite on this basis?

Insight from the influential late Catholic priest Father Malachi Martin, in his best-selling book, *The Keys of this Blood*, may help answer these questions:

In reckoning the future of Islam, Pope Paul takes into account that as a genuinely religious faith, it preserves certain fundamental truths that the Holy Spirit reveals to all people of good will; and that, in God's providence, Islam can be a threshold from which its adherents can be prepared to accept the only historical revelation made by God in this world. There will come a day, John Paul believes, when the heart of Islam – already attuned to the figures of Christ and of Christ's Mother, Mary – will receive the illumination it needs. In the meantime, the Pontiff knows that Islam will stand against him and his church and his geopolitical vision.<sup>107</sup>



## MARY, QUEEN OF MUSLIMS

The late Archbishop Fulton Sheen, who reached millions of viewers through his television series, believed that it would be Mary who would cause Muslims to convert to Christianity and unite under the Roman Catholic Church. In Sheen's book, *The World's First Love – Mary, Mother of God*, he comes to some startling conclusions concerning the future of Islam. In his chapter entitled "Mary and the Moslems" Sheen writes:

At the present time, the hatred of the Moslem countries against the West is becoming a hatred against Christianity itself. Although the statesmen have not yet taken it into account, there is still grave danger that the temporal power of Islam may return and, with it, the menace that it may shake off a West that has ceased to be Christian and affirm itself as a great anti-Christian world power... [However,] It is our firm belief that the fears some entertain concerning the Moslems are not to be realized, but that Islam, instead, will eventually be converted to Christianity – and in a way that even some of our missionaries never suspect. It is our belief that this will happen not through the direct teaching of Christianity but through a summoning of the Moslems to a veneration of the Mother of God... Missionaries in the future will, more and more, see that their apostolate among the Moslems will be successful in the measure that they preach Our Lady of Fatima.<sup>108</sup>

Louis de Montfort is considered by many as the greatest Marian evangelist of all time. Canonized as a Catholic saint in 1947, Montfort made the following last days' prediction:

The power of Mary over all devils will be particularly outstanding in the last period of time. She will extend the Kingdom of Christ over the idolators and Moslems, and there will come a glorious era in which Mary will be ruler and queen of human hearts.<sup>109</sup>

Catholic Saint Mary of Agreda – a visionary who received numerous messages from the apparition of Mary during the 17th century – wrote the massive classic entitled *Mystical City of God*. Her received Marian messages and her monumental book have gained full approval from the Roman Catholic Church. Saint Mary of Agreda conveyed what was told to her about the last times:

Before the Second Coming of Christ, Mary must, more than ever, shine in mercy, might and grace in order to bring unbelievers into the Catholic Faith. The powers of Mary in the last times over demons will be very conspicuous. Mary will extend the reign of Christ over the heathens and Mohammedans, and it will be a time of great joy when Mary, as Mistress and Queen of Hearts is enthroned.<sup>110</sup>

### MUSLIMS VENERATE MARY

Today, an increasing number of Muslims make pilgrimages to Marian shrines. Arguably, the most popular apparition site that Muslims visit is the shrine of Our Lady of Fatima in Portugal. Fatima was said to be Muhammad's favorite daughter. Furthermore, Muhammad reportedly stated that Fatima has the highest place in heaven after the Virgin Mary.

The popular Catholic spokesman Archbishop Fulton Sheen believed that the "Blessed Virgin" chose to be known as "Our Lady of Fatima" as a pledge and a sign of hope to the Muslim people and as an assurance that they, who show her so much respect, will one day accept her Divine Son, too.<sup>111</sup>

Fatima may be the most famous Marian shrine where Muslims go to pray and pay homage to the Queen of Heaven, yet Fatima is hardly unique. In 2004, *Reuters News Service* wrote, in an article entitled "Twist of globalization: All faiths come together", that Hindus, Buddhists, Muslims and other pilgrims regularly worship at famous Roman Catholic shrines to the Virgin Mary. They drink holy water, light votive candles, and pray fervently to the Madonna. The article explains that many pilgrims venerate her like one of their own goddesses.<sup>112</sup>

Furthermore, in recent years apparitions of Mary have been reported in several Muslim nations including Iraq, Syria, Egypt, Turkey, and others. Veneration has increased as more and more claim that they have experienced a miracle at a Marian shrine.

Will the world, and in particular Muslims, soon receive the illumination that they need to unite under the Queen's mantle? Fulton Sheen, in his chapter "Mary and the Moslems", points to the Miracle of the Sun as the possible enlightenment that the apparition will use:

On October 13, 1917, believers and unbelievers prostrated themselves upon the ground during the Miracle of the Sun, most of them pleading to God for mercy and forgiveness. That whirling sun, which spun like a giant wheel and thrust itself to the earth as if it would burn it with its rays, may have been the harbinger of a world spectacle that will draw millions to their knees in a rebirth of faith. And as Mary revealed herself in that first Miracle of the Sun, so may we look forward to another revelation of her power when the world has its next rehearsal for the *Dies Irae* [Day of Wrath].<sup>113</sup>

## CHAPTER 4

# QUEEN OF THE EAST

It is one thing to see how Muslims and Catholics could find common ecumenical ground based on signs, wonders, and miracles associated with Marian apparitions. No doubt this would be one of the greatest religious miracles in history, encompassing over a third of the world's population. But there is another large group that would need to be included into the one world religion.

There are hundreds of millions of people in the world today who believe in the gods and goddesses of the Eastern religions – Hindus, Buddhists, Taoists, and others. These would include the millions who have converted to Eastern religion through what is commonly called the New Age Movement. Central to the belief system of all of these religions is the role of female deities and veneration of nature/fertility goddesses.

Other groups including Native American religions, Wicca,<sup>114</sup> and a host of other similar groups, have always emphasized goddess worship. Another common thread among each of these is the teaching that all religions are similar and that we must unite to solve the myriad of problems facing mankind.

### THE NEW AGE MARY

The book entitled *Mary's Message to the World* contains hundreds of revelations from a manifestation calling herself Mary, which fall in line with both New Age thinking and Eastern religious beliefs. Though many Marian followers would deny that this is the same Mary that appears at Catholic apparition sites, the major Catholic Marian apparitions have never discredited a single specific apparition around

the world. On the contrary, the apparitions emphasize that she is appearing everywhere with the same message.<sup>115</sup>

*Mary's Message to the World* can be found at New Age bookstores and may represent one of the bridges between the Catholic Mary and the "Mary" who espouses New Age/Eastern thinking. Here are a few of "Mary's" messages to the world. Once more her message is to unite:

Each religion is worshipping, underneath the outer trappings, its Creator. It is the same Creator! Whether you pray facing the east or facing an altar, or on Saturday or Sunday, it is all worship...Allow us to view the world as a whole and each nation, each religion, as part of this Great Whole. Be tolerant, one of the other. All religions are man-made, inspired by the Creator. All words which have been written in the Holy Books have been written by men in unity with the Creator.<sup>116</sup>

It is imperative that the world join together at this time to pray to God. Pray for peace on Earth and among men. I seek to embrace all people with my love. I wish to encircle all people on Earth in a safety net which will save your souls.<sup>117</sup>

It is only as a whole unit that mankind can advance. Soon a giant leap forward will occur.<sup>118</sup>

## REEMERGENCE OF THE GODDESS

Within New Age and Eastern religious circles, many acknowledge the great importance and reemergence of the goddess. She has always played a major part in their beliefs and worship. And accordingly, books like *The Goddess Re-Awakening* are predicting her triumphant comeback:

But the presence of the Goddess herself has never departed from her holy place in our consciousness, and now, as we enter what many feel to be a "new age," we sense that the Goddess is somehow making her way back to us. But in just what guise is so far unclear.<sup>119</sup>

Those who hold Eastern and New Age beliefs are open to whatever form this returning goddess might assume. According to Caitlin

Matthews, author of *Sophia Goddess of Wisdom*, this goddess has appeared in many varying forms in the past, and is sure to return soon. Matthews writes:

I have accordingly looked for the Goddess of Wisdom under many names and titles, including Nature, the World-Soul, the Blessed Virgin and the Shekinah, as well as her more usual designations. Each of them has retained some part of the Goddess's image which, like a shattered mirror, waits to be reassembled...Nothing is going to delay the Goddess's second coming, whether in the guise of Sophia or under any other form.<sup>120</sup>

The re-emergence of the Divine Feminine – the Goddess – in the twentieth century has begun to break down the conceptual barriers erected by orthodox religion and social conservatism. For the first time in two millennia, the idea of a Goddess as a central pivot of creation is finding a welcome response.<sup>121</sup>

Author Carol Christ explains more about this enthusiastic response for the re-emergence of the Divine Feminine in her book *Rebirth of the Goddess*:

One of the most unexpected developments of the late twentieth century is the rebirth of the religion of the Goddess in western cultures...In America, Europe, Australia and New Zealand, hundreds of thousands of women and increasing numbers of men brought up in biblical religions are rediscovering the language, symbols, and rituals of the Goddess.<sup>122</sup>

## **BUDDHIST, HINDU, AND TAOIST GODDESSES**

Buddhism, Hinduism, Taoism, and other Eastern religions already lay special emphasis on their goddesses. For example, Tibetan Buddhists have a profound and intimate adoration for their female savioress who is called Goddess Tara:

Perhaps because such a concept was too abstract for many people, there gradually grew up within Mahayana Buddhism a need for a female figure...This figure came to be Tara, the Savioress, whose name means star. Veneration of Tara seems to have begun around the seventh or eighth century in India...The worship of the

Goddess Tara is now one of the most widespread of Tibetan cults ... from highest to lowest, the Tibetans realize with Tara a personal and enduring relationship, unmatched by any other single deity... Tara, in other words, is the Divine Mother of Tibetan Buddhism, a tender, beautiful, intimately and personally concerned deity who protects all who turn to her.<sup>123</sup>

This description of the Goddess Tara is remarkably similar to the descriptions given by visionaries and pilgrims who adore the “Blessed Mother” of Catholicism. And Buddhists are not unique when it comes to their worship and affection given to their beloved goddess – all of the Eastern religions venerate female deities. For example, the Hindu religions are unmatched in their worship and devotion of goddesses, as author David R. Kinsley explains:

One of the most striking characteristics of the ancient and multifaceted Hindu religious traditions is the importance of goddess worship. A considerable number of goddesses are known in the earliest Hindu scriptures, the Vedic hymns. In contemporary Hinduism the number and popularity of goddesses are remarkable. No other living religious tradition displays such an ancient, continuous, and diverse history of goddess worship.<sup>124</sup>

Taoists, as well as members of other Chinese traditional religions, also revere many goddesses. The most prominent in Taoism is known as the Queen Mother of the West. This Taoist goddess rules over the western paradise. It is believed that she has appeared to different emperors throughout history to endorse or deny the legitimacy of their rule. She eventually came to be seen as the head of a complex pantheon of different goddesses. To this day these beloved goddesses are worshipped by Taoists with great passion.

#### **MANY-NAMED GODDESS**

The modern practice of goddess worship is common among nearly every tribe, tongue, religion, and nation of the world. There is no end of documentation with regard to the importance of the female deities to the religions and cultures of the world. Many believe that this is ultimately the same goddess – a goddess who holds multiple titles and who has been called by many names throughout the ages.

In the Bible, we find that God's people repeatedly venerated the Queen of Heaven – also known in biblical times as Astarte, Ashtoreth, Asherah, Ishtar, Venus, or Diana. As we will discover later in this book, God had some rather strong words concerning the Queen of Heaven and her followers.

In other cultures and religions her guises and titles include: Artemis, Lilith, Minerva, Isis, Kwan-yin, Demeter, Gaia, Luna, Hecate, Aphrodite, Aurora, Shing Moo, Holy Mother, White Buffalo Calf Woman, Shakti, Hera, Innanna, Kali, Juno, Sophia, Ceres, Persephone, Aphrodite, Our Lady, Blessed Mother, and many more.

Catholic authors Bob and Penny Lord highlight several Church approved apparitions in their book *The Many Faces of Mary, A Love Story*. In their chapter “Mary’s Back, and She’s Stronger Than Ever” they explain why the apparition of Mary appears in so many forms:

Mary has many faces. Each title of Mary answers a special need in those who reach out to her. And she answers the needs as a loving mother, an understanding friend, a trusting confidante, whatever you need. She’s available. Don’t ever underestimate the Many Faces of Mary.<sup>125</sup>

### IS THE APPARITION OF MARY THE SAME GODDESS?

Might this many-named goddess be the Queen of Heaven that is manifesting in our day? The late Bishop Fulton Sheen explains in his book, *The World’s First Love: Mary, Mother of God*, that all men instinctively look for a compassionate mother in their religion. In his chapter entitled “The Madonna of the World” Sheen writes,

The instinct of all men to look for a mother in their religion is conspicuous, even in modern times, among non-Christian peoples. Our missionaries report the most extraordinary reaction of these peoples as the Pilgrim statue of Our Lady of Fatima was carried through the East. At the edge of Nepal, three hundred Catholics were joined by three thousand Hindus and Moslems, as four elephants carried the statue to the little church for Rosary and Benediction. At Rajkot, which has hardly any faithful, unbelieving ministers of state and high-ranking government officials came to pay veneration. The mayor of Nadiad read a



speech of welcome and stressed how proud he was to welcome the statue. For twelve hours the crowds, almost exclusively non-Christian, passed through the church as Masses continued from two o'clock in the morning until nine-thirty. As one old Indian put it: "She has shown us that your religion is sincere; it is not like ours. Your religion is a religion of love; ours is one of fear."<sup>126</sup>

Why do the people of the East revere the Virgin Mary of Catholicism? Could it be that she is indistinguishable from their own goddesses? Sheen cites the Chinese goddess Kwan-yin as an example of the many Eastern goddesses that are similar to the "Blessed Mother" of Catholicism:

There is a beautiful legend of Kwan-yin, the Chinese goddess of mercy, to whom so many pleadings have gone from Chinese lips... Her intercession for mercy was so great, and she softened so many hard hearts of hell, that the very devils ordered her to leave. They were afraid she would empty hell... The Chinese have at times pictured her as wearing on her head the image of God, to Whose Heaven she brings the faithful, although she refuses to enter Heaven so long as there is a single soul excluded.<sup>127</sup>

Another example that Sheen gives is Japan's goddess Kwanon. He acknowledges the strong resemblance between the Catholic Virgin Mary and the goddess Kwanon:

Japan, too, has its feminine principle of religion. For centuries the goddess of mercy called Kwanon has been venerated. It is interesting that Buddhists, who already know this goddess of mercy and who have come to learn of the Blessed Mother, have seen the first as the preparation for the second. Upon becoming Christian, there is no need for such Buddhists to turn their back on Kwanon as evil; rather, they accept her as the far-off foreshadowing of the woman who was not a goddess but the Mother of Mercy itself. Very becomingly, the Japanese artist Takahira Toda, who came from a family of Buddhist priests, became a member of Christ's Mystical Body after seeing the similarity between Kwanon and the Virgin Mary...only one characteristic distinguishes the Japanese Madonna from the countless other mothers of Japan – and that is a halo of light above her head.<sup>128</sup>

Sheen continues by explaining that the Madonna of Catholicism is the true Kwanon – the Mother of Mercy – for whom the Japanese have been longing for centuries. Could he be right? Could the apparitional Queen who is appearing in our day, be the final and ultimate manifestation of Kwanon, Kwan-yin, and a host of other historic goddesses? Will future manifestations of the Queen of Heaven convince the people of the East that she is the ultimate Mother of Mercy? Will this lead to unity under the Queen?

The following quote, taken from the book entitled *The Divine Feminine – Exploring The Face of God Around the World*, offers further insight into why Marian apparitions are embraced by people from every religious background:

Those who know only the Christian tradition do not know how deep the roots of Mary go or how the prayers to her echo the immemorial prayers to ancient goddesses. The words echo the greeting addressed four thousand years ago to the goddesses Inanna, Ishtar, and Isis as Queen - Hail! Great Lady of Heaven! Hail! Light of the World!

Millions of people, particularly women, have prayed to Mary as they once did to Ishtar, Hathor, Isis, and Kuan Yin, giving thanks to her for safe delivery in child birth and leaving countless tokens of gratitude in her shrines for answers to their appeals for her help in the crises of their lives.<sup>129</sup>

### **MANY GUISES, ONE GOAL**

Apparently, this goddess has been venerated around the globe for millennia. Though she comes under different titles, many researchers believe this is the same entity. There can be no doubt that her appeal transcends religious and cultural barriers, and, according to her own predictions, her grandest hour is nearing.

Regarding the Queen of Heaven's coming manifestation and global reign, Catholic Marian visionary Sister Natalie revealed that the "Queen of the Coming Age" will once again be appearing under various forms:

I saw that when the glorious peace arrives and love reigns, there

will be only “one fold and one shepherd.” Mary, the Mother of all believers, will guide the life of the souls, appearing under various forms. She will be the Queen of the Coming Age. The Queen will be white for the white people, black for the black people, and yellow for the people with yellowish complexion...<sup>130</sup>

The apparitional Mary herself acknowledges that she is the same one appearing in various forms and at many places throughout the world:

I am the same one that appeared all over the world. Look around this church and see all the different forms in which I have appeared. I am the Mother of God, and I have appeared in different places.<sup>131</sup>

Or consider the following message from an apparition of Jesus reportedly appearing in Cochabamba, Bolivia. This apparition has received the Imprimatur of the Roman Catholic Church. These messages also confirm that the same Queen of Heaven has manifested globally under many guises:

My daughter, if the world would only understand how important and necessary are the apparitions of My Mother...My Mother speaks with people in many places, in the language with which you say your prayers. She speaks to all because the Good News of her Son is for everyone. Men are filled with love a lot easier if they see that she looks like them. That is why she appears with the physical characteristics of each country where she presents herself.<sup>132</sup>

Finally, one more example from the bishop-approved messages of the Lady of All Nations which explains her ultimate purpose in coming to earth. The book begins with this statement: “The Lady of All Nations declared that the messages were not destined for one country or people alone, but for all the peoples of the world.”<sup>133</sup> The apparition explains, “I have manifested Myself to the world in different ways.”<sup>134</sup> What is her goal?

Unity is what [God’s] people must achieve, they must be one, and over them, “the Lady of All Nations.” One Community, nations, I stress these words: *One Community!*<sup>135</sup>

## THE DIVINE MOTHER'S URGENT CALL TO ALL

Many reported apparitional messages indicate that her time is soon approaching. The promised peace and unity under the Queen's mantle will be for all, we are told. How will these events culminate? This concluding summary quote from New Age authors Michelle Rios Rice Hennelly and R. Kevin Hennelly offers startling insights from the New Age Mary:

Several years ago, while meditating with my husband Kevin in a meditation sanctuary in northern New Mexico, a beautiful being of white, fiery light appeared to me. She said not to fear and told me she was Our Lady of Light and would appear to me every day for the rest of my life. My heart was filled with her light, the fire of pure love, and my life changed forever.

She soon revealed herself as the Divine Mother, the feminine side of God known throughout the ages by a thousand names. I call her Mary, for this name is most familiar to me. She continues to come to me, bringing teachings and prophecies. She has asked me to share these, and I do so as a humble vessel of a being far beyond anything our minds can grasp.

The Divine Feminine is known by a thousand names and revered in as many forms – from Isis to Mary the mother of Jesus. We know her through her love, wisdom, grace, power, beauty, creativity, nurturing, and compassion. We call her Mary, for this name is most familiar to us. Throughout the ages, she has bestowed upon her followers and devotees her many blessings. Today she is bringing an urgent message to people of all backgrounds, beliefs, and faiths around the world.

She is revealing that the world as we know it is coming to an end and from its ashes will be born "a new way of existence, a new way of being, and a new way of knowing." She is also revealing that her time on earth will come again, but this time it will not be an incarnation as when she came as Jesus' mother. This time she will come with her consciousness of pure light and love, which will penetrate everyone and everything on this planet. It will be, she says, the Time of the Goddess...Events unfolding around the world, the man-made and natural disasters, are part of the preparation for her return.<sup>136</sup>

## CHAPTER 5

# TESTING THE MESSAGES

By now it is clear that a global phenomenon of epic proportions is underway. The question now is – How can we discern whether or not these apparitions are heaven sent? Could some be Mary while others are deceptions? Should we without reservation accept that these apparitions are truly the Mary of the Bible and that God has sent her to aid us during these critical times? Those who follow the Word of God know the answer. We are commanded to test every spirit to see if it is from God.

### **GOD’S WORD IS OUR FILTER**

How can we determine if these manifestations originate from God? How can we test these apparitions to decide if they are truly benevolent? The answer is clear: We must evaluate everything with the Word of God – “Prove (test, examine, discern) all things; hold fast that which is good” (1 Thessalonians 5:21). Let’s divert for a moment to review some of the overwhelming evidence that proves that the Bible is truly God’s Word and our only source to filter every spiritual claim.

Sanctify them through Thy truth: Thy word is truth (John 17:17).

The Bible claims that it alone is the Word of God. But how can we be sure? God’s Word offers innumerable proofs that demonstrate that it is trustworthy. Every manmade way to discern the spiritual realm has the possibility of failing. Any man-inspired book can err. However, if it can be shown that the Bible is God-inspired, then we can confidently trust it to filter every heavenly claim.

In our previous book, *Messages From Heaven*, we examined several evidences which reveal that the Bible, and only the Bible, is God’s

inerrant Word. These evidences included:

- 1) Examining some of the many messianic prophecies written hundreds of years before Christ's first advent – which were literally fulfilled by Jesus.
- 2) Investigating the infallible proofs of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- 3) Surveying a handful of the amazing prophecies pertaining to the nation of Israel.
- 4) Listing scientific insights found in God's Word hundreds of years before science discovered their validity.

#### **LAST DAYS BIBLE PROPHECIES**

For the sake of this book, we will highlight only one area of evidence. God has foretold many last days' signs in His Word. Jesus indicated that all these signs would arise concurrently – gaining momentum like birth pangs – in the final generation (Luke 21:28-32). What follows are a number of last days' Bible prophecies that confirm that the Bible is truly God's inerrant Word to mankind.

- 1) False Bible teachers would be money hungry. They would be smooth talkers, have many followers, and slur the Christian faith (2 Peter 2:1-3). A growing number of TV evangelists epitomize this.
- 2) Mankind would be capable of destroying all life (Matthew 24:21-22). Consider that when Jesus made this prediction the armaments of His day were swords and spears. But today, with nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons, it is possible to wipe out all flesh on planet earth.
- 3) The use of nuclear weapons anticipated (Zechariah 14:12). The neutron bomb melts (dissolves) its victims – just as Zechariah predicted 2,500 years ago. This was unimaginable in Zechariah's day.
- 4) There would be a global cry for peace (1 Thessalonians 5:3). Never has there been such a concerted, global effort to bring about peace at any cost as there is in our day.

- 5) Global communications foreseen (Revelation 11:9-10; 17:8). The Bible prophesies that the entire world will “see” certain events unfold. The invention of the television and the deployment of global satellite networks during the 20th century allow news to travel the world at the speed of light for the first time ever. Yet in John’s day, news traveled at the speed of horseback.
- 6) The Christian gospel would be preached as a witness to all nations (Matthew 24:14; Mark 13:10; Revelation 14:6). Today, portions or all of the Bible have been translated into over 2,300 languages and dialects covering well over 90% of the world’s population.
- 7) The possession of Jerusalem would be at the center of international turmoil (Zechariah 12:3). Almost daily the world news reports on the conflict over Jerusalem.
- 8) The fact that God once flooded the earth (the Noahic Flood) would be denied (2 Peter 3:5-6). There is a mass of fossil evidence to prove this fact, yet it is flatly ignored by most of the scientific world because it was judgment from God on man’s wickedness.
- 9) Russia (Magog) would rise as a military power in the last days (Ezekiel 38).
- 10) The nation Israel would be born in one day (Isaiah 66:8). On May 14, 1948 Israel became a nation. Never in recorded history has a nation been dispersed for hundreds of years and then regathered. Yet, God said it and God has done it before our very eyes!
- 11) The Jews would begin to regather in Israel (Jeremiah 31:7-10; Ezekiel 37:21-22; 38:8). Over five million Jews have returned to Israel in recent times! This unlikely prophecy alone is unmistakable evidence of the Scriptures’ Divine inspiration.
- 12) The Jews would regain control of biblical Jerusalem (Zechariah 12:6; Luke 21:24). This happened in 1967!

- 13) Asia (the kings from the east) would be capable of deploying a 200-million-man army during earth's final days (Revelation 9:14-16; 16:12). Bear in mind, when John penned this prophecy 2,000 years ago, there were only an estimated 170 to 400 million people on the entire planet. Yet today, according to the CIA, China alone has 281 million men fit for military service!
- 14) Egypt would exist in the last days – but only as a lowly third world nation (Ezekiel 29:14-16). Egypt was one of the world's greatest ancient civilizations. Yet today, as prophesied, Egypt remains, but only as an impoverished nation. To show how amazing this prophecy is, compare modern Egypt to the tiny nation of Austria. Egypt has ten times more land area, and a population eight times greater than Austria. Yet, Egypt's Gross Domestic Product is only one-fifth of Austria's GDP.
- 15) Youth would become increasingly rebellious (2 Timothy 3:2-3; Mark 13:12; Isaiah 3:4-5, 12). No comment necessary.
- 16) Homosexuality would be flaunted at the end of the age. Jesus warned that the last days would be like the days of Lot – who lived in wicked Sodom (Luke 17:28-30). We know that the root of Sodom's sin was pride and complacency (Ezekiel 16:49) – as it is today. However, Sodom's lasting infamy stemmed from their aggressive homosexual sin (Genesis 19; Jude 1:7). Today, the homosexual agenda is flaunted and forced upon our entire society.
- 17) Epidemic drug use predicted (Revelation 9:21). The Greek word translated *sorceries* is *pharmakeia* which can also refer to drug use, both illegal drugs and mind-altering drugs. The use of illegal drugs and the dispensing of mind-altering drugs has risen sharply during our current generation.
- 18) Sorceries – referring to witchcraft, magic, or occult practices used to enchant and deceive – are also anticipated in the last days (Revelation 9:21; 18:23; Isaiah 47:9-15; Micah 5:10-15). Today, interest in the occult is flourishing.
- 19) Financial systems would depend on numbers not cash (Revelation 13:17-18). Remember, this prophecy was made 2,000 years before our computer-driven society.



- 20) Many would call themselves the Christ (Matthew 24:5). Jesus was an itinerate preacher who never traveled outside the tiny nation of Israel and He had the audacity to say that many would come in His name, claiming to be the Christ. And yet today, as foretold, multitudes within the New Age Movement, Eastern religions, and the cults call themselves the Christ.
- 21) The final generation would be open to receiving a mark on their right hand or on their forehead (Revelation 13:16). Consider how the up and coming generation is tattooed, pierced and marked with all kinds of insignia.
- 22) People would reject the sound doctrine of the Word of God and follow the doctrines of men that appeal to their own lusts (2 Timothy 4:3-4; Acts 20:29-30). Jesus also predicted that there would be many hypocrites within the church (Matthew 24:48-51; Matthew 7:22-23).
- 23) Blasphemy would be common (2 Timothy 3:2; Revelation 16:9, 11, 21). Consider how often people use their Creator's name (God, Lord, or Jesus Christ) as a curse word. Fifty years ago, Hollywood seldom used God's name in vain. Today, nearly every movie contains blasphemy.
- 24) Sexual immorality would be rampant (Jude 18; Revelation 9:21). Keep in mind, Jesus said whoever looks to lust has already committed adultery in his heart (Matthew 5:28). Today lust is marketed in every conceivable venue.
- 25) Men would mock the warning signs of the end of the age saying that these signs have always been around (2 Peter 3:3-4). The Bible even reveals their motivation, they love lust.

There are many more last days' prophecies – several too detailed for this brief list.<sup>137</sup> However these 25 demonstrate that the Bible is the inspired Word of God. No other “Holy Book” offers specific fulfilled prophecies – not the Koran, the Book of Mormon, the Hindu Vedas, nor any other source. Yet the Bible presents hundreds of verifiable prophecies that have been fulfilled throughout history right up to our present day. God states that His ability to lay-out history in advance separates Him from every other so-called god.<sup>138</sup>

Contrast the Bible's 100% track record with other self-proclaimed prophetic sources and there is no comparison. The false prophets generally fall into two categories. Either they repackage and plagiarize the Bible's prophecies for the unsuspecting masses, or they make so many vague prophecies that one is bound to be fulfilled. Nostradamus did both.<sup>139</sup>

We have good reason to trust the Word of God. So with the Bible as our guide, let's examine these apparitional manifestations and their messages.

### **THE MARIAN MOVEMENT**

For those not acquainted with the Marian Movement, a brief summary of the fruit of this movement is in order. The Marian Movement overflows with kind, upright people who truly long for peace on earth. Many are outraged at the moral atrocities that plague our society, and they are hoping that God, through the Virgin Mary, will put an end to such horrors as war, genocide, abortion, euthanasia and moral decay.

Numerous individuals within the Marian Movement are on the front lines battling these moral crimes that are destroying society. These individuals have an active faith through prayer and ministry. You can sense the excitement and anticipation in the air when you are around many in the Marian Movement. They believe that God will soon move mightily through the Virgin Mary, to vanquish evil and bring about peace.

Jesus said that the world would know His followers by their love and the good fruit in their lives (John 13:35; Matthew 7:15-20). Consequently, within the Marian Movement, followers often point to the good fruit, love, and transformed lives of those within the movement as evidence that this is from God. Although, this is a biblical test for followers of Christ, it is not the biblical method for testing spirits. The Bible commands us to test the spirits, and warns that there is another gospel – a false gospel: “But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you...let him be accursed” (Galatians 1:8).

So while it appears that there are many sincere God-fearing individuals within the Marian Movement that, in and of itself, does not necessarily mean the apparitions are from God. We must test the spirits with the Word of God.

### TESTING THE SPIRITS

Those who are familiar with the Word of God know that we are to be cautious when dealing with alleged heavenly visitors. The apostle John reminds us: “Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world” (1 John 4:1). The apostle Paul adds this warning: “Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness” (2 Corinthians 11:14, 15). Furthermore, the New Testament repeatedly warns of deception in the name of Christ in the last days:

For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect (Matthew 24:24).

Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils (1 Timothy 4:1).

The principal way to test these alleged “Messengers From Heaven” is to test their messages with God’s Word:

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness (2 Timothy 3:16).

### MESSAGES FROM HEAVEN?

We will begin by examining several messages from Marian apparitions which have received full approval from the Roman Catholic Church<sup>140</sup> or carry the Imprimatur of the local Catholic bishop.<sup>141</sup> Those messages from apparitions which have received full Church approval are preceded by a ★. Those messages from apparitions which

carry the Imprimatur of the local Catholic bishop are preceded by a **B**. Each message is followed by, and contrasted with, the Word of God. The source of the apparitional message is given in the endnotes.

★ I alone am able still to save you from the calamities which approach. Those who place their confidence in me will be saved.<sup>142</sup>

The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; The God of my rock; in Him will I trust: He is my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower, and my refuge, my saviour; Thou savest me from violence. I will call on the LORD, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies (2 Samuel 22:2-4).

I, even I, am the LORD; and beside Me there is no saviour (Isaiah 43:11).

★ I boldly assert that His suffering became my suffering, because His heart was mine. And just as Adam and Eve sold the world for an apple, so in a certain sense my Son and I redeemed the world with one heart....<sup>143</sup>

As for our redeemer, the LORD of hosts is His name, the Holy One of Israel (Isaiah 47:4).

For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God (1 Peter 3:18).

★ [Jesus] wishes to establish in the world devotion to My Immaculate Heart....[Lucia recalled,] Before the palm of the right hand of Our Lady was a heart encircled by thorns which seemed to have pierced it like nails. We understood that it was the Immaculate Heart of Mary outraged by the sins of humanity, for which there must be reparation.<sup>144</sup>

But this Man [Jesus Christ], after He had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; from henceforth expecting till His enemies be made His footstool. For by one offering He hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified. ...there is no more offering for sin (Hebrews 10:12-14, 18).

But He [Christ] was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed (Isaiah 53:5).

★ It is for this, that, as Mother, as Immaculate Mother, Mediatrix of all Graces, that I call you to this place...so that my union with you may be more intimate and vital, through the Holy Spirit, permitting you to live deeply in the spirit of the Gospel.<sup>145</sup>

For there is one God, and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus (1 Timothy 2:5).

And for this cause He [Jesus] is the Mediator of the new testament [covenant] (Hebrews 9:15).

**B** Do not let yourselves be seized by fear or discouragement. Have great confidence in the powerful work of intercession and mediation of your heavenly Mother.<sup>146</sup>

It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us (Romans 8:34).

Wherefore He [Jesus] is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them (Hebrews 7:25).

**B** The world is degenerating, so much so, that it was necessary for the Father and the Son to send Me into the world, among all the peoples, in order to be their Advocate and to save them.<sup>147</sup>

And if any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And He is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world (1 John 2:1, 2).

For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved (John 3:17).

**B** Until I am acknowledged there where the Most Holy Trinity has willed me to be, I will not be able to exercise my power fully, in the

maternal work of coredemption and of the universal mediation of graces....Sons, let yourselves be transformed by my powerful action as Mother, Mediatrix of Graces and Coredemptrix.<sup>148</sup>

Thou [Jesus] art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for Thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by Thy blood... (Revelation 5:9).

Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and His redeemer the LORD of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside Me there is no God (Isaiah 44:6).

**B** I am she who is related to the DIVINE TRINITY – I am the Virgin of Revelation.<sup>149</sup>

...before Me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after Me (Isaiah 43:10).

I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty (Revelation 1:8).

**B** My daughter, in this time, I am the Ark, for all your brethren! I am the Ark of peace, I am the Ark of salvation, the Ark where my children must enter, if they wish to live in the Kingdom of God.<sup>150</sup>

Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved (Acts 4:12).

And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life (1 John 5:11-12).

**B** Beloved sons, today you are gazing upon the immaculate splendor of your heavenly Mother. I am the Immaculate Conception. I am the only creature free from every stain of sin, even the original one. I am all beautiful.<sup>151</sup>

But the scripture hath concluded [confined] all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe (Galatians 3:22).

...none is good, save One, that is, God (Luke 18:19).

★ Do not be grieved. I am with all of you even though you do not see me. I am Mother of all of you, sinners.<sup>152</sup>

I [Jesus] am with you alway, even unto the end of the world (Matthew 28:20).

Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of My righteousness (Isaiah 41:10).

These are just a few of the countless messages showing that the Marian apparitions clearly contradict the teachings of Scripture. Numerous other apparitional messages are contrasted with Scripture in the book *Messages From Heaven* listed in the back. These messages reveal that the apparition claims many attributes that only Jesus (who is God) possesses. God alone is sinless, omnipresent, divine, the savior, the redeemer, our advocate, our fortress, our peace, etc. As we will discover in the next chapter, there are many other troubling aspects to the apparitions' messages and actions.

## CHAPTER 6

# BIBLICAL EXPOSÉ OF THE QUEEN OF HEAVEN

### WORTHY OF WORSHIP

A disturbing practice occurs at most apparition sites. The apparition of Mary actually encourages her followers to worship her. Many visionaries and seers even claim that they are forced to their knees when the apparition appears. Other visionaries state that the apparition tells them to kneel.

According to Bob and Penny Lord, enthusiastic supporters of the apparition of Mary, the apparition at Lourdes threw the visionary Bernadette to her knees.<sup>153</sup> They also report that at Medjugorje the six children “felt themselves being forced to their knees” when the apparition first appeared.<sup>154</sup> Video footage exists that shows the six young visionaries at Medjugorje simultaneously falling to their knees when the apparition appears. The video *Messages From Heaven* shows many examples of pilgrims kneeling, crawling, bowing, or prostrate before images, statues, or apparitions of Mary.<sup>155</sup>

In addition, the apparition of Mary at Lourdes, France; Guadalupe, Mexico; Beauraing, Belgium; Fatima, Portugal and many other sites, requests that shrines or temples be built in her honor where the faithful may come and venerate her.<sup>156</sup> It should be noted that the apparitions at the four sites mentioned above have received full approval by the Roman Catholic Church. The message is clear at all of the major apparition sites: The apparition of Mary is worthy of worship, honor, and praise.



In addition, the apparitions have inspired numerous prayers that the faithful are to recite and obey. One example of prayer to Mary can be found in the popular *Devotions in Honor of Our Mother of Perpetual Help*:

Behold at thy feet, O Mother of Perpetual Help, a wretched sinner who has recourse to thee and confides in thee. O Mother of Mercy, have pity on me. I hear thee called by all the refuge and hope of sinners; be then my refuge and my hope....O Mother of Perpetual Help, grant that I may ever invoke thy most powerful name, which is the safeguard of the living and the salvation of the dying.<sup>157</sup>

Notice at the beginning of this prayer that the wretched sinner is at the feet of Mary. Throughout this popular devotional, stark idolatry toward Mary is repeatedly encouraged, yet the apparitional Mary has never warned against it. Would the humble Mary of the Bible encourage people to fall at her feet? Wouldn't this violate the second commandment? Here is what the Bible states:

Thou shalt have no other gods before Me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing...**Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them**, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God... (Exodus 20:3-5).

Look unto Me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else (Isaiah 45:22).

Whom have I in heaven but Thee? And there is none upon earth that I desire beside Thee (Psalm 73:25).

## WORSHIP GOD

The Bible repeatedly commands believers to worship God, and Him alone. In the Book of Revelation, the apostle John falls at the feet of a magnificent angel. Immediately the angel rebukes John and says, "See thou do it not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God" (Revelation 22:9). The angel could not have been clearer – all of creation is to worship God exclusively.

When Jesus was led into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil,

we see that the devil wanted to be worshipped. “[Satan showed Jesus] all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; and saith unto Him, all these things will I give Thee, if Thou wilt fall down and worship me. Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve” (Matthew 4:8-10).

Jesus specifically states that only the Lord is to be worshipped – we are to fall down at God’s feet alone. Yet we know that Jesus allowed His followers to worship Him (Matthew 14:28-33), thereby establishing that He is God. However, no creature, not even Mary, is to be worshipped. Our Creator, our Owner, our Life, deserves our complete devotion. Of course the true Mary of the Bible would not contradict the Word of God. Therefore these manifestations of the Queen of Heaven cannot be the Blessed Virgin Mary of Nazareth.

At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father (Philippians 2:10-11).

## **IDOLATRY**

In Isaiah chapter 46, God contrasts how He carries His people, while idols need to be carried.<sup>158</sup> Idols were common in Babylon. The Babylonians fashioned statues after their various gods and would carry them around during many religious ceremonies and festivals. The Lord says these idols are useless and an abomination: “they fall down, yea, they worship. They bear [an idol] upon the shoulder, they carry him, and set him in his place, and he standeth; from his place shall he not remove: yea, one shall cry unto him, yet can he not answer, nor save him out of his trouble” (Isaiah 46:6-7).

In numerous Scripture passages, idolatry is prophesied to be prevalent on earth during the last days.<sup>159</sup> Sadly the idolatry that took place in Isaiah’s day is increasingly occurring in our day. Isaiah 46 describes how the people prostrated themselves to venerate a statue that represented the false Babylonian gods and goddesses despite God’s command not to bow down before any graven image. The Lord contrasted how the idols

needed to be carried, while only He could carry His people:

...their idols were upon the beasts, and upon the cattle: your carriages were heavy loaden; they are a burden to the weary beast. They stoop, they bow down together; they could not deliver the burden, but themselves are gone into captivity. Hearken unto Me, O house of Jacob, and all the remnant of the house of Israel, which are borne by Me from the belly, which are carried from the womb: And even to your old age I am He; and even to hoar [gray] hairs will I carry you: I have made, and I will bear; even I will carry, and will deliver you. To whom will ye liken Me, and make Me equal, and compare Me, that we may be like? (Isaiah 46:1-5).

The idolatry described in Isaiah chapter 46 leads to the judgment of “the lady of kingdoms” who encouraged this idolatrous behavior. This “virgin daughter of Babylon” and her judgment are described in Isaiah chapter 47. We will investigate Isaiah 47 later in the book.

As our Creator and Owner, God is rightfully jealous for our undivided devotion. Throughout the Scriptures, God repeatedly warns His people to worship Him alone and to avoid making or revering figures, images or idols –

Take ye therefore good heed unto yourselves; for ye saw no manner of similitude [form or image] on the day that the LORD spake unto you in Horeb out of the midst of the fire: **Lest ye corrupt yourselves, and make you a graven image, the similitude of any figure, the likeness of male or female...** And lest thou ... shouldest be driven to worship them, and serve them (Deuteronomy 4:15-16, 19).

## GRAVEN IMAGES

Despite the Creator’s repeated warnings against idolatry, the apparition of Mary actually instructs her followers to venerate her statues and images. The following message comes from a book that carries the Imprimatur of a Catholic bishop and archbishop:

As Mother I want to tell you that I am here with you, represented by the statue you have here. Each of my statues is a sign of a presence of mine and reminds you of your heavenly Mother.

**Therefore it must be honored and put in places of greater veneration...**you should look with love at every image of your heavenly Mother...<sup>160</sup>

The apparition encourages her followers to make and honor graven images of her. Not once in the Bible do we find an obedient follower of the Lord making a graven image to venerate or bow or pray to. Not once. At many apparition sites, statues of Mary are carried and venerated in public processions. Marian followers even crawl to the statue of Mary on their knees (often bloody knees) – a show of reverence and worship toward the Queen of Heaven.<sup>161</sup> Yet not one apparition that we have researched has ever discouraged this anti-biblical behavior.

It should not come as a surprise that this idolatry is exactly what God warns against in the last days. We are told in the Book of Revelation, when God is pouring out His judgments on unrepentant mankind, that many continue to worship idols, and by extension, the demons which lurk behind them:

And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk (Revelation 9:20).

#### **CONSECRATION TO "MARY"**

In addition to idolatry, the apparition even asks her followers to consecrate their lives completely to her care. In the ancient world, to swear or take an oath by a god meant to take that god as your own. The Israelites were commanded to swear by the Lord alone (Deuteronomy 10:20). To make oaths to any other god is an abomination to the Lord:

But the king shall rejoice in God; every one that sweareth [takes an oath] by [God] shall glory: but the mouth of them that speak lies shall be stopped (Psalm 63:11).

They that swear [take an oath] by the sin of Samaria [an idol], and say, thy god, O Dan, liveth; and, the manner of Beersheba liveth; even they shall fall, and never rise up again (Amos 8:14).

I will cut off the remnant of Baal from this place, and the name of the Chemarims with the priests; and them that worship the host of heaven upon the housetops; and them that worship and that swear by the LORD, and that swear by Malcham (Zephaniah 1:4-5).

Notice that in the above passage from Zephaniah, those who took oaths to both the true God and false gods were just as guilty as those who took oaths only to false gods. Sadly however, it is very common today for many who call themselves Christian to consecrate their lives to the “Immaculate Heart of Mary.”

In 1984, Pope John Paul II consecrated the entire world and all peoples to the “Immaculate Heart of Mary” in response to Our Lady of Fatima’s request. Here is an excerpt from his consecration prayer:

We have recourse to your protection, holy Mother of God... Embrace, with the love of the Mother and Handmaid of the Lord, this human world of ours, which we entrust and consecrate to you...In entrusting to you, O Mother, the world, all individuals and peoples, we also entrust to you this very consecration of the world placing it in your motherly heart.<sup>162</sup>

Millions upon millions have consecrated their entire being, their family, their nation, and the world to the apparition of Mary. Marian scholar Dr. Mark Miravalle explains what consecration is:

Consecration is a promise of love and a gift of self which gives all that we are and all that we do, without limitation, to the Immaculate Heart of Mary so that she can bring us most perfectly to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.<sup>163</sup>

The following bishop-approved apparitional messages explain the Queen of Heaven’s commands and promises to those who will consecrate their lives to her:

Let there be no leader among you. *I myself will be your Leader.* You must all be brothers: loving, understanding and helping each other. The only thing that matters is that you let yourself be formed by me: for this it is necessary that each one of you offer himself and consecrate himself to my Immaculate Heart and

entrust himself completely to me just as Jesus entrusted Himself totally to me; and then I will take care of everything.<sup>164</sup>

To everyone who consecrates himself to me I again promise salvation: safety from error in this world and eternal salvation.<sup>165</sup>

In stark contrast, God commands us to trust Him alone, “Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths” (Proverbs 3:5-6). “Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve” (Matthew 4:10).

In Exodus 32, we are told that while Moses was on Mount Sinai receiving the Ten Commandments that the people asked Aaron to fashion them a god. This idolatry greatly angered the Lord and 3,000 men were put to death. On that day Moses admonished the people with these words:

Consecrate yourselves to day to the LORD, even every man upon his son, and upon his brother; that He may bestow upon you a blessing this day (Exodus 32:29).

Following this incident, God once again reminded His people not to partake in the idolatrous activities of the heathen:

Take heed to thyself, lest thou make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land whither thou goest, lest it be for a snare in the midst of thee: But ye shall destroy their altars, break their images, and cut down their groves: For thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God: Lest thou make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land, and they go a whoring after their gods (Exodus 34:12-15).

## **PRAYERS TO THE QUEEN OF HEAVEN**

There are more prayers raised to the Queen of Heaven than any other being. Millions of “Hail Marys” are repeated every single day. In contrast, Jesus told His followers not to recite the same prayers over and over again: “But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking” (Matthew 6:7). The Lord wants our hearts, not vain repetition.

Furthermore, in order for Mary to answer all these petitions, she would have to be omniscient, omnipresent, and omnipotent. Nowhere in the Bible is any created person or angel or even Mary ascribed these attributes. God alone is all-knowing, ever-present, and all-powerful.

Globally millions also pray the rosary (in obedience to the apparition) which contains ten “Hail Marys” for every “Our Father” and ends with a prayed entitled “Hail, Holy Queen” –

Hail, holy Queen, Mother of Mercy! Our life, our sweetness, and our hope! To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve, to thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley, of tears. Turn, then, most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us; and after this our exile show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb Jesus; O clement, O loving, O sweet virgin Mary. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Yet, the Lord forbids His followers from praying to the deceased and departed. In Deuteronomy 18, God condemned the pagan practice of attempting to communicate with a spirit or dead person. Sadly, necromancy is exactly what Marian followers practice. They call upon Mary though she has long since departed to be with Jesus in heaven.

There shall not be found among you ... a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer [one who prays to the dead]. For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD (Deuteronomy 18:10-12).

God forbids this practice to protect His followers from being seduced by evil spirits posing as departed loved ones. Praying to saints or any dead and departed person exposes us to counterfeit spirits (Isaiah 8:19-20). Jesus commanded us to pray to the Father in His name. “And whatsoever ye shall ask in My name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son” (John 14:13). “Whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in My name, He may give it you” (John 15:16). There is only one mediator between God and man:

For there is one God, and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus (1 Timothy 2:5).

From Genesis to Revelation we find that God's true followers always prayed directly to the Lord. Never do we find a believer in the Bible praying to Abraham or Moses or David or Mary or any other saint. Not once. There are, however, examples of God's people "playing the harlot" and calling on someone other than God. One sad example is King Saul. Saul was Israel's first king, who disobeyed the Lord repeatedly. First Chronicles tells us his final fate:

So Saul died for his transgression which he committed against the LORD, even against the word of the LORD, which he kept not, and also for asking counsel of one that had a familiar spirit, to enquire of it; and enquired not of the LORD: therefore [God] slew him, and turned the kingdom unto David the son of Jesse (1 Chronicles 10:13-14).

#### **OUR GRACIOUS MOTHER?**

The apparition of Mary universally proclaims that she is our compassionate, gentle, merciful Mother – while Jesus is often portrayed as a distant, harsh judge. The popular *Devotions in Honor of Our Mother of Perpetual Help* underscores this fact:

Come then, to my help, dearest Mother, for I recommend myself to thee. In thy hands I place my eternal salvation and to thee do I entrust my soul. Count me among thy most devoted servants; take me under thy protection, and it is enough for me. For, if thou protect me, dear Mother, I fear nothing; not from my sins, because thou wilt obtain for me the pardon of them; nor from the devils, because thou are more powerful than all hell together; nor even Jesus, my judge Himself, because by one prayer from thee he will be appeased.<sup>166</sup>

Yet, the Bible ascribes these attributes to God alone (never once to Mary). There are hundreds of Scriptures that describe the Lord's great grace, mercy and love toward those who fear Him:

The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin (Exodus 34:6-7).



The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee (Jeremiah 31:3).

But Thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth (Psalm 86:15).

Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort (2 Corinthians 1:3).

Come unto Me [Jesus], all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light. (Matthew 11:28-30).

The Scriptures NEVER point to Mary as our help. It was Jesus who was moved with compassion, touched the lepers, healed the sick, fed the hungry, preached the good news to the poor, wept over sin, and died in our place! Jesus embraced the little children, forgave the repentant, delivered the possessed, prayed for His accusers, sought the single lost sheep, gave sight to the blind, and raised the dead!

It was Jesus alone who bore “our griefs, and carried our sorrows...He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all” (Isaiah 53:4-6).

Though the Queen of Heaven ascribes many wonderful titles to herself, the Bible assigns these glorious names to Jesus exclusively – “Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6). Scripture tells us that it is Jesus who is the: Savior, Redeemer, Dayspring, King of Kings and Lord of Lords, Light of the World, Living Water, Bread of Life, Rose of Sharon, Holy One, The Beloved, The Good Shepherd, Author and Finisher of Our Faith, Anchor, The Word of God, The Door, The Way, The Truth, and The Life, True Vine, Faithful and True Witness, The Alpha and Omega, I

AM; The Amen, Immanuel, The Resurrection and The Life, and many more wonderful names.

It is God, not any person, who is near the brokenhearted (Psalm 34:18), who upholds all who fall (Psalm 145:14), and in His hand is the soul of every living thing, and the breath of all mankind (Job 12:10).

The Lord numbers all our hairs (Luke 12:7), and He collects all our tears in a bottle (Psalm 56:8). He is not far from every one of us, for in Him we live, and move, and have our being (Acts 17:27-28). God gives to all life, breath, and all things (Acts 17:25). He owns all our ways (Daniel 5:23). The Lord fashions us in our mother's womb (Jeremiah 1:5). We are complete in Jesus alone (Colossians 2:10)!

God is our gentle, caring Father. He is also a jealous Father, protecting His children. And He will not share His glory with any other. This is why we can be assured that He is very angered by these deceptive apparitions.

Twice Jesus had opportunity to exalt Mary's role in front of His followers. However, on both occasions Jesus' words put Mary's maternal role into perspective:

While [Jesus] yet talked to the people, behold, His mother and His brethren stood without, desiring to speak with Him. Then one said unto Him, Behold, Thy mother and Thy brethren stand without, desiring to speak with Thee. But He answered and said unto him that told Him, Who is My mother? and who are My brethren? And He stretched forth His hand toward His disciples, and said, Behold My mother and My brethren! For whosoever shall do the will of My Father which is in heaven, the same is My brother, and sister, and mother (Matthew 12:46-50).

And it came to pass, as [Jesus] spake these things, a certain woman of the [multitude] lifted up her voice, and said unto Him, Blessed is the womb that bare Thee, and the [breasts] which Thou hast sucked. But He said, Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it (Luke 11:27-28).

**RETURN OF BABY JESUS?**

Those who follow the apparitions are aware that the Queen of Heaven sometimes appears holding a living, breathing baby in her arms. On some occasions this baby has been known to communicate messages. One has to wonder – who is this helpless baby? Scripture tells us that the true Jesus is reigning in heaven as a glorified man:

[Jesus Christ] is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto Him (1 Peter 3:22).

For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto His glorious body (Philippians 3:20-21).

The Bible states that Jesus has only one body (Ephesians 2:16; Hebrews 10:5). He ascended to heaven as a full-grown man (Luke 24:51; Acts 1:9-11). We are told over and over that Jesus is currently in heaven (Matthew 26:64; Romans 8:34; Ephesians 1:20; Colossians 3:1; Hebrews 1:3; 9:24-25; 12:2). He is not going to come back to earth as a baby. In fact, we are told specifically that when Jesus returns, He will return in the clouds, in His glorified body, and every eye will see Him –

And then shall they see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory (Mark 13:26).

And when He had spoken these things, while they beheld, He was taken up; and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? **this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven** (Acts 1:9-11).

Behold, He cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see Him (Revelation 1:7).

**DECEPTION DEFINES THE LAST DAYS**

It is a fact that the apparitions appear to seers as radiant, beautiful and glowing in brilliant light. For example, the Church approved apparition at Zeitoun, Egypt – seen by millions – was described as a radiant lady composed of light.

If these manifestations are demonic, would we expect Satan to reveal his hideous nature? Wouldn't it make sense for the devil and his demons to materialize as beautiful and benevolent, with messages that sound righteous? Scripture states that Satan deceives the whole world.<sup>167</sup> Further, God warns that the devil is the most cunning creature,<sup>168</sup> and that:

Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness... (2 Corinthians 11:14, 15).

The word *angel* (Greek: *aggelos*) simply means *messenger*. As we have documented, Marian apparitions claim to be heaven-sent messengers who appear beautiful and benevolent. They also teach righteousness, prayer and a pious lifestyle. However, they mix in just enough deception to draw the elect away.

Could angels of light communicate messages that contain biblical truths alongside messages that contain doctrines of demons? Yes, according to the apostle Paul, who warns of this exact deception occurring in the last days:

Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils (1 Timothy 4:1).

Notice that those who give heed to seducing spirits were previously in the faith. They professed biblical truth until they departed and followed doctrines of devils. Jesus also repeatedly warned of great deception in the last days:

Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in My name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.... And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many ... Then if any

man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Behold, I have told you before (Matthew 24:4-5, 11, 23-25).

Deception defines the last days. It is interesting that the word *Christ* means the anointed of God. It doesn't always mean that the deceiver will claim to be Jesus, only that the deceiver claims to come in Jesus' authority, and claims to be anointed by God for a particular ministry. Does the apparition of Mary claim to come in Jesus' name? Does the Queen of Heaven claim to be anointed to proclaim messages from God in the last days?

### EFFECTIVE DECEPTION

The apparitions' thousands of messages portray a queen who possesses all of Christ's distinct characteristics. She claims to be our Mediator, our Intercessor, our Advocate, our Co-Redeemer, our Suffering Servant, and many other titles that reveal her misleading agenda. She even claims to be sinless, omnipresent, and worthy of adoration, in direct contradiction to the Word of God.

It is true that many of the apparition's messages are biblical, but this only makes the deception all the more attractive. Remember that when tempting Jesus, Satan accurately quoted Scripture.<sup>169</sup> The devil knew that he couldn't deceive Jesus with an outright lie, but that he must use subtle deception. Likewise, Satan often mixes a subtle lie in with truth. He is the master deceiver. And the grandest of all deceptions are those that are mostly true.

While the bulk of the apparitions' messages seem harmless, even biblical, is it possible that deception mixed with truth might lead many down a pathway that leads to eternal destruction? Satan may encourage good and noble deeds as long as they ultimately compromise our exclusive relationship with Jesus and His Word. God states emphatically that He will not share His glory with another:

**I am the LORD: that is My name: and My glory will I not give to another, neither My praise to graven images (Isaiah 42:8).**

## REVEALING THE QUEEN OF HEAVEN

Who then is this impostor?<sup>170</sup> Certainly she is not the humble and blessed Mary of the Bible. Ironically, the apparition herself reveals her origin: “I am Mary, the Queen of Heaven and the Queen of Angels.”<sup>171</sup> Today among her followers the title Queen of Heaven is the apparition’s most popular name.

It comes as a surprise to many people that the Queen of Heaven is found in the Bible, not once but several times. The Scriptures identify this Queen as a false goddess. In Jeremiah chapters 7 and 44, God pronounces judgment on the children of Judah for their idolatrous worship of the Queen of Heaven:

The children gather wood, and the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead their dough, to make cakes to the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto other gods, that they may provoke Me to anger. Do they provoke Me to anger? saith the LORD: do they not provoke themselves to the confusion of their own faces? Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, Mine anger and My fury shall be poured out upon this place (Jeremiah 7:18-20).

God’s people repeatedly incorporated the worship of the Queen of Heaven with their worship of the true Lord. This idolatry invoked God’s judgment. Certainly, Mary of Nazareth would not assign to herself the name of a pagan goddess – nor would she encourage idolatry. This entity must therefore be a demonic impostor. In fact, as we search the Scriptures, we find that this demonic entity has sought to deceive God’s people for millennia. She has held many titles, but her desire has always remained the same – to receive the worship that only God deserves and to deceive His people. And as Solomon reminds us, if it has happened in the past, it will happen again.<sup>172</sup>



## CHAPTER 7

# QUEEN OF REVELATION

Is what happened in Jeremiah's day reoccurring in our day? If Satan's delusion to encourage idolatry in the name of the Lord was effective in deceiving God's people in the past, would he not attempt to perpetrate the same delusion today?

In the past, God repeatedly warned His people ahead of time of the pagan practices, false religions and false gods and goddesses that would entice them.<sup>173</sup> Therefore, would it be reasonable to assume that if this same deception is happening in these last days that God would warn us ahead of time? Scripture assures us that God is faithful to warn us in advance (Amos 3:7; 1 Corinthians 10:13; Revelation 1:1). Scripture also assures us that God does not change (Malachi 3:6; Hebrews 13:8).

In the next three chapters we will examine several Bible prophecies to see if God has warned us in advance.

### **THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS**

The final book of the Bible – the Book of Revelation – records the major events that will culminate during the last days. In chapters 17 and 18 we are given specific details of a powerful queen who will reign over the peoples and nations of the world during this time.<sup>174</sup>

She is a harlot who commits fornication with the kings of the earth.<sup>175</sup> Her fornication even intoxicates the inhabitants of the earth.<sup>176</sup> The harlot sits over peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues.<sup>177</sup> This evil woman is also identified as a great city that reigns over the kings of the earth during the last days.<sup>178</sup> As we will see, the name written on her forehead is very appropriate:



MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF  
HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH  
(Revelation 17:5).

Many Bible commentators believe that this wicked woman represents the apostate church of the last days. Because the true church is called the bride of Christ, the false church would rightly be called a harlot. The apostle Paul reminds true followers of Christ that they have been espoused to Christ as “a chaste virgin.”<sup>179</sup> And, in Revelation 21:9-10 the church is called the Lamb’s wife (i.e. Christ’s bride) in contrast to the brazen whore described in Revelation 17. In the Old Testament, the Lord’s people were also married to Him.<sup>180</sup>

Because believers are Christ’s bride, whenever His people follow other gods, He labels their sin – fornication, and refers to them as harlots. Several times in the Bible God rebukes His people for “playing the harlot” with false gods.<sup>181</sup> Therefore, to label the last days counterfeit church as “The Mother of Harlots” is consistent with the whole of Scripture.

#### **SPIRITUAL HOSTS OF WICKEDNESS**

Why would God personify the apostate church as a woman and queen? The Bible declares that our real enemies are the rulers of the darkness of this age and the spiritual hosts of wickedness.<sup>182</sup> Behind every wicked kingdom, empowering every false religion, directing every evil ruler, there are spiritual forces of darkness. These demonic powers represent the true authority behind every false religion.

In the 10th chapter of the Book of Daniel we are given some alarming insight into the heavenly war that is raging in the unseen world. While Daniel is praying, an angel appears to him in a vision and says:

Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words. But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia. ... and now will I return to fight with the prince of Persia: and when I am gone forth, lo, the prince of Grecia shall come (Daniel 10:12-13, 20).

Daniel's prayers affected the heavenly hosts so that God dispatched an angel to him. This angel was withstood by the prince of Persia until Michael, one of the chief princes, helped him. This insight into the spiritual realm reveals that the true power behind the kingdoms of Persia and Greece were evil spirits. Clearly, the world's final false religious system will also be energized by demonic powers. It is interesting that God describes this religious system as a woman.

Will the forces of darkness that empower the final false religion manifest themselves as a woman? Does the apparition of Mary, who predicts that she will usher in world peace and a unified religion, resemble the woman of Revelation 17 and 18?

### WHO IS THE WOMAN?

If the Queen of Heaven is the energizing spirit behind earth's final religious system, then the prophecies found in the Book of Revelation should reveal this fact. We begin by investigating Revelation 17 –

I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters: With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication. So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast... (Revelation 17:1-3).

This woman, who is called a harlot (whore), has made the inhabitants of the earth intoxicated with the wine of her fornication. What woman, in the last days seduces and lures her followers to commit spiritual fornication? The Greek word for *fornication* (Gk. *porneuo*) used here could also be translated *idolatry*. Therefore, what woman (and the church she leads) encourages her followers to commit idolatry?

This woman also commits fornication with the kings of the earth. As we saw in Daniel 10:13, the kings of the earth may represent the evil spirits that empower nations and kingdoms. The Greek word for *king* used in Revelation 17 is *basileus*, and depending on the context it can be translated evil spirit or sovereign power or authority. In Revelation 9:11, the same Greek word is used to describe Satan: "And they had a king [Gk. *basileus*] over them, which is the angel of the bottomless pit,

whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath his name Apollyon.”

Is there an evil spirit in our day that appears as a woman and has hordes of powerful evil spirits that do her bidding? Is there a woman who appears in many nations encouraging her followers to commit idolatry? Could the woman of Revelation 17, who represents the counterfeit church and the city that reigns over the earth, be an evil principality that controls and directs the evil spirits on the earth in the last days?

If the apparition of Mary is the spiritual power behind the counterfeit church, then she should be closely associated with that church. She should be the figure that represents this false church. She should be the spiritual role model of this false church. She should be the “mother” of this apostate church.

#### **DOES A WOMAN REPRESENT ROME?**

Does a woman represent the Church of Rome? Is the Mary of the apparitions a model of the Catholic Church? Is the Mary of the apparitions the “figure” and “eschatological fulfillment” of the Roman Catholic Church? To answer these questions we refer to *John Paul II’s Book of Mary*:

[Mary] is a model of the Church...The same analogy – and the same truth – are present in the Dogmatic Constitution of the Church. Mary is the “figure” of the Church. For in the mystery of the Church, herself rightly called mother and virgin, the Blessed Virgin came first as an eminent and singular exemplar of both virginity and motherhood...The Council emphasizes that the Mother of God is already the eschatological [end times] fulfillment of the Church: “In the most holy Virgin the Church has already reached that perfection whereby she exists without spot or wrinkle (cf. Ephesians 5:27)”; and at the same time the Council says that “the followers of Christ still strive to increase in holiness by conquering sin, and so raise their eyes to Mary, who shines to the whole community of the elect as a model of the virtues.”<sup>183</sup>

It is interesting that the pope considers Mary, whom he refers to as Virgin and Mother, to be a “model” for the Church; a “figure” of the Church; and the “eschatological (end-times) fulfillment” of the Church.

Is this why the Bible depicts the false world church as a woman? Dave Hunt, in his thoroughly documented book, *A Woman Rides the Beast*, offers the following explanation:

Why is this false World Church seen as a woman? Again, this criterion, like all of the others in Revelation 17, fits the Vatican perfectly. **The most prominent figure by far in Roman Catholicism is a woman.** She overshadows all else, including even God Himself. More prayers are offered to the Catholic Mary and more attention and honor is given to her than to Christ and God combined. There are thousands of shrines to Mary around the world (and hundreds of shrines to other “saints”), but scarcely more than a handful of minor shrines to Christ Himself.<sup>184</sup>

If this explanation is the correct one, then we should find many additional clues that reveal that the Queen of Heaven is the energizing force behind the false church.

#### THE GREAT HARLOT COMMITTING FORNICATION

If the apparition of Mary that is manifesting in our day is demonic, then the Bible would rightly name her a harlot. She has come in Christ’s name, but she is drawing followers after her false gospel and deceptive messages.<sup>185</sup> She has committed spiritual fornication against the Lord, and is therefore the greatest of harlots. We read in the first two verses of Revelation 17:

Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters: With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication (Revelation 17:1, 2).

Anyone who has talked with followers of Mary knows that the truly devout followers won’t even discuss the possibility that the apparitions are not from God. These faithful Marian followers are literally seduced by her lies. They come from all over, literally many waters, and are unknowingly committing spiritual fornication. Spiritual fornication would rightly describe the behavior of a person who claims to follow the Jesus of the Bible, but follows instead, the Queen of Heaven. The good news is that we are told from the very first verse that she will be judged.

### THE GOLDEN CUP OF ABOMINATIONS

The Bible continues its description of this woman: “The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication” (Revelation 17:4). The description here is one of royalty. The woman is a queen with great glory and splendor. The apparition claims to be queen and visionaries tell us that when she appears she is adorned with every radiant splendor. The description fits perfectly. The golden cup full of abominations fits perfectly as well.

The golden cup may refer to the instrument of the Eucharist. It is full of abominations because the Eucharist denies the finished work of Christ on the cross and perpetuates the atonement by re-sacrificing Christ over and over again during every Mass.<sup>186</sup> This false gospel is an abomination to God because it denies the finality of Christ’s once-for-all atoning work of the cross. The golden cup full of abominations also suggests idolatry, which is often encouraged by the apparition of Mary. Not only does she encourage her followers to bow down to statues of her, but she also requests that they bow before and worship the Eucharist.

Furthermore, it is the Eucharistic Jesus whom the Queen says she will usher in.<sup>187</sup> In fact, an ongoing apparition in Rome known as “The Mother of the Eucharist” appears with a golden cup in her queenly hand, proclaiming that she and the Eucharistic Jesus will close history. The following quote from The Mother of the Eucharist appearing in Rome summarizes the purpose of her manifestations:

All the messages come from God and everywhere that I am appearing, I am speaking about the same things, because through the triumph of the Eucharist the Mother wants all the Churches to be reunited, so that there will be only one Church for all the people.<sup>188</sup>

The apparition of Mary comes as a queen arrayed in splendor, commanding believers to partake in the sacrifice of the Mass, which is accomplished with the golden chalice which holds the Eucharist. Here is how the *Expositor’s Bible Commentary* interprets Revelation 17:4:

Dressed in queenly attire (Ezekiel 16:13; cf. Revelation 18:7), the woman rides the beast, swinging in her hand a golden cup full of her idolatrous abominations and wickedness. Note the contrast - beauty and gross wickedness...The golden cup filled with wine alludes to Jeremiah's description of Babylon's world-wide influence in idolatry (Jeremiah 51:7)... "filth" (akatharta, "uncleaness") is a word frequently associated in the NT with evil (unclean) spirits (e.g., Matthew 10:1; 12:43) and also with idolatry (2 Corinthians 6:17)...<sup>189</sup>

Additionally, *The New International Greek Testament Commentary* explanation of these verses is illuminating: "It has also been observed that the intoxicating influence has included a deception of people so that they acquiesce in idol worship...This understanding is confirmed by the concluding phrase of 17:4, which speaks of the cup being 'full of abominations and [or 'even'] the unclean things of her fornication.' It should be remembered that both OT and NT, including John, think of demons behind idols."<sup>190</sup>

### **MYSTERY, BABYLON**

"And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH" (Revelation 17:5). Apparently, earth's final religious system will be as Babylon was. Throughout the Bible, Babylon is described as a very religious culture that venerated many false gods and goddesses. Idolatry was common to the Babylonians, and the Israelites followed this abominable practice which led to their captivity in Babylon for 70 years.

Apparently, this woman's abominations parallel the idolatrous behavior of ancient Babylon. Why though, is Babylon labeled a "Mystery" in Revelation 17:5? Might the Holy Spirit be describing a system that will take on Babylonian-like characteristics, yet not be literal Babylon? Charles Caldwell Ryrie explains in succinct terms why "Mystery, Babylon" must refer to the apostate, counterfeit church of the last days:

Her name is called a mystery. (Note that the word "mystery" is not adjective - "mystery Babylon" - but a noun in apposition with Babylon - "mystery, Babylon.") The Christian will realize by the

use of this word “mystery” that this Babylon is not the city on the Euphrates but a secret use of the word (explained in 17:9, 18). Since the true church is also called a mystery (Ephesians 5:32), this apostate church is a counterfeit.<sup>191</sup>

That this Babylon of Revelation 17 is a mystery, may also anticipate the mysterious characteristics of this religious system. Pope John Paul II unknowingly offered this insight:

The Church perseveres in prayer with Mary. This union of the praying Church with the Mother of Christ has been part of the mystery of the Church from the beginning: we see her present in this mystery as she is present in the mystery of her Son...

The Second Vatican Council prepares us for this by presenting in its teaching the Mother of God in the mystery of Christ and the Church. If it is true, as the Council itself proclaims, that “only in the mystery of the Incarnate Word does the mystery of man take on light,” then this principle must be applied in a very particular way to that exceptional “daughter of the human race,” that extraordinary “woman” who became the Mother of Christ. Only in the mystery of Christ is her mystery fully made clear. Thus the Church sought to interpret it from the very beginning: the mystery of the Incarnation has enabled her to penetrate and to make ever clearer the mystery of the Mother of the Incarnate Word.<sup>192</sup>

There is another great “mystery” associated with this mystery religion of the last days, and that is the mystery of the Eucharist. Many volumes have been written on the “mystery” of the Mass, which centers around the Eucharistic sacrifice. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states: “[...]in the Eucharist] Christ is thus really and mysteriously made present...Every time this mystery is celebrated, ‘the work of our redemption is carried on...’”<sup>193</sup> Not surprisingly, it is the “Eucharistic Christ” who the Queen says she will usher in.<sup>194</sup>

### IS MYSTERY BABYLON ROME?

It is fascinating to discover that the apostle Peter apparently used Babylon as a code word for Rome.

The church that is at Babylon, elected together with you, saluteth you... (1 Peter 5:13).

Well-known Catholic apologist Karl Keating admits that Rome has long been known as Babylon. Keating writes: "Babylon is a code word for Rome. It is used that way six times in the last book of the Bible...Eusebius Pamphilius, writing about 303, noted that 'it is said that Peter's first epistle...was composed at Rome itself; and that he himself indicates this, referring to the city figuratively as Babylon.'"<sup>195</sup>

In the *New American Bible: The Catholic Bible Personal Study Edition*, we see this confirmed: "From Irenaeus in the late second century until modern times, Christian tradition regarded Peter the Apostle as author of this document. Since he was martyred at Rome during the persecution of Nero between A.D. 64 and 67, it was supposed that the letter was written from Rome shortly before his death. This is supported by its reference to 'Babylon' (1 Peter 5:13), a code name for Rome in the early church."<sup>196</sup>

And in the *New American Standard* version of the *Ryrie Study Bible*, we read the following: "The place of writing was 'Babylon' (5:13), a symbolic name for Rome much used by writers who wished to avoid trouble with Roman authorities. Peter was in Rome during the last decade of his life and wrote this epistle about A.D. 63, just before the outbreak of Nero's persecution in 64. Peter was martyred about 67."<sup>197</sup>

If the evidence suggests that Peter used Babylon as a code word for Rome, is it logical to believe that John, in the Book of Revelation, also used Babylon as a code word for Rome? Certainly, John would have been familiar with Peter's epistles – and both were inspired by the Holy Spirit. Is it therefore reasonable to deduce that during the tribulation period this evil woman's seat of power will be centered in Rome?



**WHY IS JOHN AMAZED?**

“And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered [marveled] with great admiration [amazement]” (Revelation 17: 6).

Why was John shocked when he saw this woman? Who is this woman that would be so terrifying and amazing that John marveled? By this point in Revelation John has been exposed to many horrific events on earth. Why is this the only place he marvels with great amazement? Dave Hunt, in his book *A Woman Rides the Beast*, offers some interesting insight into this verse:

That a gorgeously clad woman should be holding the reins astride such a terrifying, world-devouring beast was just cause for astonishment. John appears, however, to have been dumbfounded by more than that fact – indeed, by the woman herself (“when I saw **her**, I wondered with great admiration [amazement]”). Why? Was it because a woman was a religious figure? Hardly.

That religion should wield great authority was a universal fact of John’s day. Church and state were one, with religion playing a dominant role. If the woman merely represented pagan world religion, John would hardly have been surprised. What could there have been about this woman that astonished him? Had he known her before and was shocked by the unbelievable transformation? ...How had Christ’s chaste bride become this brazen whore?<sup>198</sup>

Ironically, the final religious system on earth will appear outwardly Christian. The woman will come in Christ’s name – pious and outwardly beautiful. Her words and appearance will put forth a Christian veneer but have in reality a devilish core.

**THE WOMAN SITS ON SEVEN HILLS**

Continuing in Revelation 17:9, we are told: “The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth.” And in verse 18 it is revealed that: “the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.”

The *New American Bible* (an official Catholic Bible from Catholic World Press), renders Revelation 17:9: “The seven heads represent

seven hills upon which the woman sits.” Of course, a woman cannot be a city, so she must represent the city that sits on seven hills and rules over the earth during the Tribulation.

There is only one city which is a major spiritual center that is situated on seven hills. That city is Rome and specifically Vatican City. Rome has always been known as the “city of seven hills” and is the spiritual center of the Roman Catholic Church. As the *Catholic Encyclopedia* states:

It is within the city of Rome, called the city of seven hills, that the entire area of Vatican State proper is now confined.<sup>199</sup>

Many commentators agree that Rome is the city on seven hills upon which the woman sits. John Phillips explains that from earliest times Rome has been known as the city of seven hills:

The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth. This pinpoints the seat of imperial power. Rome is the city of seven hills and has been known as such from the earliest times. Rome, as a center of political power, is not of much importance today, but it will be.<sup>200</sup>

Author and Bible scholar Warren Wiersbe agrees, “Verse 18 makes it clear that she is a city, and in John’s day, she was reigning over the kings of the earth. The seven heads of v. 3 are identified as seven mountains in v. 9. There seems to be little doubt that the city is Rome. It is situated on seven hills; when Revelation was written, Rome was reigning over the kings of the earth.”<sup>201</sup>

And well-known Bible teacher J. Vernon McGee gives significant historical evidence that Rome is the city on seven hills. He writes:

The woman is identified for us in verse 18: “And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.” The woman is a city, and the city is Rome, the religious capital of the world. She is religious Rome, which at that time will have inherited all the religions of the world.

The city is further identified in verse 9: “And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on

which the woman sitteth.” Rome was the city set on seven hills and was known as such to both pagan and Christian writers. Horace wrote, “The gods, who look with favor on the seven hills...” Ovid added, “But Rome looks around on the whole globe from her seven mountains, the seat of empire and abode of the gods.” Augustine wrote, “Babylon is a former Rome, and Rome is a later Babylon.” In these verses the city of Rome is assuredly in view.<sup>202</sup>

Charles Caldwell Ryrie and many other Bible commentators also come to the only reasonable conclusion, “Finally, the identification of the Woman is further pinned down to the city previously mentioned (v. 9), that is, Rome. This makes it impossible to disassociate apostate Christendom of the tribulation days from Rome. Rome will be the religious and political center of the world in the tribulation.”<sup>203</sup>

Is it any wonder that the apparition of Mary predicts that most of the world will come under her mantle during her coming reign? She repeatedly states that she wants to “convert” the world. Her definition of conversion is to the Roman Catholic Church. She is the most powerful spiritual figure in the Church of Rome and though she pleads for world unity, it is always with the understanding that this unity will be under her Church.

#### **THE HARLOT SITS OVER ALL NATIONS**

The description of this woman continues in verse 15: “And he saith unto me, the waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.” That this harlot will sit over all nations reminds us of the famous prediction made by Our Lady of Fatima promising – “In the end, My Immaculate Heart will triumph and a period of peace will be given mankind.” Also, recall that the “Lady of All Nations” predicts that under her guidance all the nations of the world will be one.

In the earlier chapters of this book we documented that the apparition is appearing everywhere with a message of peace and global unity. Truly, the apparition of Mary sits over all peoples. Is there any other supernatural phenomenon that is so prevalent worldwide, literally affecting all nations and multitudes?

The following message from “Jesus” given to visionary Sister Natalie in 1986 illustrates this point: “My Father will have mercy on the world through the Immaculate Heart of My Mother. My children, you too will see the glorious arrival of My Immaculate Mother.”<sup>204</sup> According to the visionary, the most important task of her lifetime was to:

Communicate to the world Jesus’ desire that the whole world would recognize His Mother as the Victorious Queen of the World.<sup>205</sup>

According to the book *The Victorious Queen of the World*, 1988, translated by Stephen A. Foglein, Pope Pius XII consecrated the world to Mary as the Victorious Queen of the World, partially as a result of a message Sister Natalie received from “Jesus” during World War II.<sup>206</sup> Regarding Mary and the future era, Sister Natalie explained:

I saw that when the glorious peace arrives and love reigns, there will be only “one fold and one shepherd.” Mary, the Mother of all believers, will guide the life of the souls, appearing under various forms. She will be the Queen of the Coming Age. ...Her mantle will cover the whole earth, her tiara will decorate it. Her Heart will direct the whole world till the arrival of the last Judgment.<sup>207</sup>

## DWELLING PLACE OF DEMONS

Revelation 18 begins by describing the fall of Babylon: “Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird!” (Revelation 18:2).

Notice in this verse that demons are behind Babylon’s facade. The Greek word for *unclean* is *akathartos* which is the same word used to describe the demonic spirits depicted in Revelation 16:13-14: “And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. **For they are spirits of demons**, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world...”

The *New International Greek Testament Commentary on The Book of Revelation* summarizes Babylon’s fall: “The final stripping away of Babylon’s luxurious facade (17:4; 18:16) reveals her skeleton, within

which sit only demonic birdlike creatures. Jewish interpretation of the creatures in Isa. 13:21 and 34:11, 14 understood them to be demonic. This final revelation shows that the demonic realm has been Babylon's guiding force."<sup>208</sup>

Is it possible that Babylon, a code word for Rome, has been guided by the demonic realm? More specifically, are the apparitions of Mary, that guide and influence the Roman Catholic Church, unclean spirits?

### **I SIT A QUEEN**

In Revelation 18, God graciously calls His people to come out of her: "Come out of her, My people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities" (Revelation 18:4, 5). What is so amazing is that some of God's people are deceived by her and involved with her. Jesus said that the deception in the last days would be so great that, if possible, even the elect would be deceived.<sup>209</sup> Apparently many of the elect are deceived for a season. The good news is that multitudes turn to the Lord during the Tribulation and receive the gift of salvation.<sup>210</sup>

Finally, we see in Revelation 18 that this woman calls herself a queen and lives luxuriously. In shameless rebellion, she denies that she will see sorrow and be judged:

How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, "**I sit a queen**, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow" (Revelation 18:7).

Is there any other woman who calls herself a queen and predicts she will sit over the nations and guide mankind in these final days? Only the apparition of Mary claims this title and wields the power to achieve this goal, if only for a season. She has truly glorified herself. Once again, the apparition fits neatly with the Bible's description of this wicked queen.

### **THE HARLOT WILL BE DESTROYED**

It is astounding that the evil spirits behind the apparition, which are ultimately guided by Satan, think they can actually defeat God. Yet, in

Satan's pride and arrogance, he has been blinded to his ultimate fate. However, God assures us that this wicked harlot and her counterfeit system will ultimately be destroyed:

And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire...Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire...Thus with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all (Revelation 17:16; 18:8; 18:21).

Though God warns of the queen's last days rise to power, He also promises to dethrone and destroy her. He has included this crucial warning and promise in His Word so that we would know in advance and heed His call to "Come out of her, My people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues" (Revelation 18:4). God is faithful, patient and loving toward us. The Lord desires all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of truth.<sup>211</sup>

The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9).

There are many additional clues that indicate that the apparitional Queen of Heaven and her counterfeit system is the great harlot described in Revelation chapters 17, 18 and 19. We encourage you to study these chapters in depth.

The next two chapters will examine several additional prophecies which also indicate that there will be a global deception perpetrated by a wicked woman.

## CHAPTER 8

# LADY OF KINGDOMS

### THE LADY OF ALL NATIONS

The apparition of Mary is frequently referred to as “Our Lady” by the faithful. There are hundreds and possibly thousands of apparitions given the title “Our Lady.” In Medjugorje, Bosnia, she is called Our Lady of Medjugorje. In Paris, France, she is called Our Lady of Paris. In Fatima, Portugal, she is called Our Lady of Fatima. In Akita, Japan, she is called Our Lady of Akita.

Wherever she appears she is automatically referred to as Our Lady. So it is only fitting that a major apparition claims to be “The Lady of All Nations.” This popular apparition appeared to visionary Ida Peerdeman standing upon the earth as the great shepherdess over her sheep, before a large cross, with rays emanating down from her wounded hands, proclaiming herself the Co-Redemptrix.

In the global sense, the apparition of Mary truly can be considered “The Lady of All Nations,” as she is appearing in virtually every nation of the world. Here is a quote from the apparition of Mary, in Amsterdam, who claims to be “The Lady of All Nations” –

I am the Lady – Mary – Mother of All Nations. You may say, “The Lady of All Nations” or “Mother of All Nations,” who once was Mary. I have come precisely today in order to tell you that I wish to be known as this. Let all the children of men, of all the countries in the world – be one!<sup>212</sup>

## THE LADY OF KINGDOMS

The apostle John is not the only prophet who foresaw a queen who would be judged for the whole world to see. The prophet Isaiah also warned about a deceiving woman called the “virgin daughter of Babylon” and “the lady of kingdoms” who would be exposed and punished by God. Chapter 47 of Isaiah describes how this queen will lose her throne and be sent into darkness.

While it is clear that the prophecies given in Isaiah concerning the “virgin daughter of Babylon” have been historically fulfilled, is a dual application with a future fulfillment possible? Biblical prophecies, with both a near-term and a later fulfillment, are quite common in Scripture.<sup>213</sup> Let’s investigate Isaiah 47 to see if a dual fulfillment is warranted:

Come down, and sit in the dust, **O virgin daughter of Babylon**, sit on the ground: there is no throne, ...Sit thou silent, and get thee into darkness, O daughter of the Chaldeans: for thou shalt no more be called, **The lady of kingdoms** (Isaiah 47:1, 5).

This virgin, who has a throne until she is judged by God, is called “the lady of kingdoms.” Sound familiar?! This title is almost identical to the name of the apparition of Mary appearing in Holland. Why would an apparition of Mary call herself “The Lady of All Nations,” a title that the Book of Isaiah applies to a wicked lady, full of sorceries, who is ultimately destroyed?

Certainly, the true Mary of Nazareth would not assign to herself the name of a wicked lady. Might this prophecy given by Isaiah apply to the entity that appears as Mary? Is there a connection between the Lady of Kingdoms and the Queen described in Revelation? Who is this virgin daughter of Babylon and is she related to the woman in Revelation 17 who has on her forehead the name written, Mystery, Babylon?

## VIRGIN DAUGHTER OF BABYLON

In verses 1 through 3 of Isaiah 47, the Lord, through Isaiah, begins to describe the virgin daughter of Babylon. She is a virgin and she is the offspring or descendant of Babylon: “Come down, and sit in the dust, O virgin daughter of Babylon, sit on the ground: there is no throne, O



daughter of the Chaldeans: for thou shalt no more be called tender and delicate... Thy nakedness shall be uncovered, yea, thy shame shall be seen: I will take vengeance" (Isaiah 47:1, 3).

Here we see that she has a throne, until the Lord judges her and uncovers (exposes) her (v. 2-3). Of course, only a queen has a throne and this is apparently what she is. That she needs to be uncovered shows that she is not what she appears to be – she is a deceiver. This also aptly describes the apparition of Mary. She claims to be a queen. She claims to have a throne. She claims to be a perpetual virgin. She claims to speak in the Lord's authority, yet she is cleverly deceiving millions.

Catholic Marian supporters Bob and Penny Lord echo the sentiment of millions of Marian devotees when they write: "It's good to put Mary on a throne, because she is our queen."<sup>214</sup>

#### TENDER AND DELICATE

The fact that she is called by her followers "tender and delicate" is also an accurate description of how the apparition of Mary is perceived by her supporters. Followers often proclaim that "Mary" is so tender, gentle and approachable. Wherever she appears, the apparition is described as beautiful and radiant, while at the same time appearing so tender and merciful. Interestingly, the Hebrew word translated *delicate* is *anog*, which is also translated *luxurious*. Because this lady has a throne, and is therefore a queen, *luxurious* may be a more appropriate rendering. In any case, the virgin described in Isaiah 47 is seen by her followers as tender and delicate, which is exactly how the virgin of the apparitions portrays herself around the globe:

I am a tender and understanding Mother for all of you.<sup>215</sup>

In addition visionaries describe the apparition of Mary as a Lady and Virgin of exquisite beauty. Visionary Estela Ruiz describes the Virgin as glowing in radiance and tender love. Estela relates that during an apparition, she is mesmerized by the Lady's beauty and tenderness. Recalls Estela,

Her most dominate feature is her eyes. They steal your heart. They're full of grace, love, tenderness and mercy. There are so many beautiful things about her.<sup>216</sup>

There is even an icon of Mary known as “Our Lady of Tenderness.” A large cathedral has been built for Our Lady of Tenderness by the Eastern Church. For many in Russia and the Ukraine, “The Lady Who Saves Russia,” as she is also called, is the most beloved image of the Eastern Church. The icon of this tender and delicate “Lady” has gained international fame for ecumenical endeavors. Not surprisingly, “Our Lady of Tenderness” has come to symbolize the movement for the unity of the churches.<sup>217</sup>

It is interesting that both Isaiah’s “lady” and manifestations of “Our Lady,” emanate tenderness and queenly luxuriance. Let’s continue to explore Isaiah’s description of this lady.

### CO-REDEMPTRIX

The apparition of Mary appearing in Amsterdam as “The Lady of Nations” is of particular significance because she has been the most vocal in persuading the faithful to name her Co-Redeemer. It is very provocative to read what the Lord says just prior to naming her by name:

**As for our Redeemer, the LORD of hosts is His name,** the Holy One of Israel. Sit thou silent, and get thee into darkness, O daughter of the Chaldeans: for thou shalt no more be called, The lady of kingdoms (Isaiah 47:4-5).

Could it be that the Lord revealed 2,700 years in advance that the Lady of Kingdoms would want to be known as Co-Redeemer? God tells us in His Word that He alone “declares the end from the beginning.” There can be no doubt that God foresaw this abominable doctrine – and He hates it. The Lord responds emphatically that He alone is the Redeemer. He even states that He will not arbitrate with a man on this point (v. 3). He says, in effect, this is not up for discussion!

The apparition, however, has asked the faithful to arbitrate for her and petition the pope for this new dogma to be announced – the dogma of Co-Redemptrix. Listen to “The Lady of All Nations” in her own words:

Once more I am here. – **The Co-Redemptrix, Mediatrix, and Advocate is now standing before you.** I have chosen this day: on this day the Lady will be crowned. Theologians and apostles of the

Lord Jesus Christ, listen carefully: I have given you the explanation of the dogma. Work and ask for this dogma. **You should petition the Holy Father for this dogma...** On this date “the Lady of All Nations” will receive Her official title of “Lady of All Nations.”<sup>218</sup>

God effectively says that this is not up for debate. He and He alone is the Redeemer of all. “As for our Redeemer, the LORD of hosts is *His* name...” (Isaiah 47:4). Even so, Isaiah 47:4, 5 anticipates that she will be called “The Lady of Kingdoms” by her followers, and suggests that she will petition her followers to proclaim her as Co-Redeemer. To date, her request seems near fulfillment. In 1997, *Newsweek* ran a cover story on Mary, discussing her potential new role as Co-Redeemer. Here is an excerpt:

In the last four years, the pope has received 4,340,429 signatures from 157 countries – an average of 100,000 a month – supporting the proposed dogma [Co-Redemptrix dogma]. Among the notable supporters are Mother Teresa of Calcutta, nearly 500 bishops and 42 Cardinals, including John O’Connor of New York, Joseph Glemp of Poland and half a dozen cardinals at the Vatican itself. Nothing like this organized petition drive has ever been seen in Rome. But then, it isn’t often that Catholics beg a pope to make an infallible pronouncement.<sup>219</sup>

#### THE FINAL MARIAN DOGMA

Several million more signatures supporting this dogma have been sent to the pope since this article was written. Is this prophecy given by Isaiah 2,700 years ago about to be fulfilled? According to Marian theologians, the Co-Redemptrix doctrine will be the last and final Marian dogma, and it will usher in her triumphant reign promised at Fatima. Authors Ted and Maureen Flynn explain what they and many other Marian theologians believe will soon take place:

The last major event will be the proclamation of the Blessed Mother as Co-Redemptrix, Mediatrix, and Advocate – the last and final Marian dogma of the Catholic Church.<sup>220</sup>

The virgin daughter of Babylon proclaims that she will be a lady

forever, but God tells her that she does not remember the **latter end** of these events,<sup>221</sup> namely, that she will be utterly destroyed.<sup>222</sup> That this is the last and final Marian dogma, agrees with Isaiah's prophecy, which indicates that this will occur in the latter end, just prior to her destruction.<sup>223</sup>

Notice that in Isaiah 47:5, God declares that when He dethrones "the lady of kingdoms," that she will go into darkness. Is this not where fallen angels go prior to judgment? Here is the Bible's description: "God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment" (2 Peter 2:4).

### OUR MOTHER

Another universal theme from the many apparitions around the world is that she is our mother and we are her children. It should be no surprise that God anticipates this claim as well:

Therefore hear now this, thou that art given to pleasures, that dwellest carelessly [securely], that sayest in thine heart, **I am, and none else beside me; I shall not sit as a widow, neither shall I know the loss of children:** But these two things shall come to thee in a moment in one day, the loss of children, and widowhood: they shall come upon thee in their perfection for the multitude of thy sorceries, and for the great abundance of thine enchantments (Isaiah 47:8-9).

The lady of Isaiah 47, who believes she will always have children, apparently, considers herself to be the mother of these children. She believes her status as mother is secure. This too, is a claim of the apparition of Mary who states that we are all her children and she is forever our mother:

Well then, nations, put your trust in your Mother, who has never yet forsaken Her children.<sup>224</sup>

A mother never forgets her children. And I have not forgotten what you suffer. I am the Mother of all of you, sinners. Invoke me with these words: "Holy Virgin, you are my Mother, the Mother to all of us, sinners."<sup>225</sup>

Wherever the “Blessed Mother” appears she makes these claims. For instance Our Lady of Medjugorje has proclaimed, “...as your **Heavenly Mother**, I come to call all humanity to return to God’s love...**Every human being on this earth is my child**, and I don’t want to lose even one soul.”<sup>226</sup> There are thousands of similar messages given by apparitions around the world. Clearly, this lady believes we are her children and she asserts that we always will be.

### SIGNS AND WONDERS

We are also told in Isaiah 47:9 that the lady of kingdoms is full of sorceries and enchantments. Is there any other current supernatural phenomenon that claims as many miracles, signs and wonders? This phenomenon has more wonders than any other. She is literally casting a spell over multitudes:

**See with how many signs I accompany this anguished appeal of mine!**...With messages I have given and apparitions I have granted in many parts of the world, with numerous weepings, even with blood, I want you to understand that this is a grave hour...<sup>227</sup>

In this very country [Japan] I have given you an extraordinary sign, causing copious tears to fall more than a hundred times from the eyes of one of my statues, in which I am represented as the Sorrowful Mother beneath the Cross of my Son, Jesus.<sup>228</sup>

I am shedding tears of blood for the whole of humanity. I want to save you! Listen to me. I am a merciful Mother, and I am above this earth. I allow myself to be seen after many warnings. **I give many signs.**<sup>229</sup>

It is her signs and wonders, (which the Lord calls sorceries and enchantments), which draw so many followers after her. Jesus predicted that in the last days, “There shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect” (Matthew 24:24). That God still refers to those who follow her as “My people,”<sup>230</sup> confirms that these lying signs and wonders would be directed toward the elect and deceive them for a season.

Some proponents of the Marian apparitions might argue that only God could be behind the many signs and wonders. They reason that the apparitions' power could only come from God. Once again, our answer is found in Scripture: "The coming of the lawless one is according to all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved" (2 Thessalonians 2:9-10).

In the last days, Satan will command numerous signs and lying wonders to deceive those who dwell on the earth. He will even be allowed the (apparent) power to heal: "And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the beast" (Revelation 13:3). Satan has been given the power to both afflict with disease and remove the disease. One example of this is found in the Book of Job.<sup>231</sup>

We are given remarkable examples of Satan's power throughout the Old Testament. In Egypt, for example, after Moses and Aaron turned their rod into a serpent, Pharaoh's magicians Jannes and Jambres turned their rods into serpents, too!

And Moses and Aaron went in unto Pharaoh, and they did so as the LORD had commanded: and Aaron cast down his rod before Pharaoh, and before his servants, and it became a serpent. Then Pharaoh also called the wise men and the sorcerers: now the magicians of Egypt, they also did in like manner with their enchantments. For they cast down every man his rod, and they became serpents: but Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods (Exodus 7:10-12).

Amazingly, Satan, acting through the sorcerers and magicians, was able to convert nonliving matter into (apparently) living serpents. In the subsequent verses we find that the magicians and sorcerers were also able to duplicate a plague of frogs and turn the Nile to blood.<sup>232</sup>

If Satan can duplicate the signs and wonders of God, then miracles, signs, and wonders cannot be used as the arbitrator of truth. Jesus said "An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign" (Matthew 12:39). We are to seek after Jesus in His Word, the signs and wonders will follow us, not the other way around.

To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them (Isaiah 8:20).

Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God (Matthew 4:4).

## FIRE FROM HEAVEN

We are told in Isaiah 47:9 that “the lady of kingdoms” has an abundance of enchantments that apparently cast spells over her followers. The apparition also has a great multitude of tricks that captivate her children. One in particular has attracted multitudes. It is called the Miracle of the Sun.

The Miracle of the Sun is one of the most commonly reported signs at apparition sites. Pilgrims report that the sun spins, pulsates, and even appears to fall toward the earth. Literally millions of pilgrims are believed to have experienced this sign in recent years. Can Satan cause stellar-sized wonders to appear in the sight of mankind? The Bible gives us insight.

In the Book of Job we read that Satan asked God permission to afflict God’s faithful servant Job – hoping that Job would curse God. God allowed Satan to tempt Job and even said to Satan: “Behold, all that he hath is in thy power” (Job 1:12). Not long after, Satan stirred up the Sabceans who raided Job’s animals and killed his servants.

Immediately following this devastating event another servant came to Job and reported: “**The fire of God is fallen from heaven**, and hath burned up the sheep, and the servants, and consumed them; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee” (Job 1:16). While the servant calls the fire from heaven “the fire of God” we know from the narrative that this was caused by Satan.

Additional insight is found in the Book of Revelation. During the last days the second beast of Revelation 13 will perform, “...great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, and deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles...” (Revelation 13:13-14). Satan has both the craftiness and the power to deceive those who do not know or obey God’s Word.

**BEWITCHED BY THE LADY**

This Lady who claims to be our mother is seducing many Christians with her enchantments. She has cast a spell over many through her signs and wonders. When visionaries have an encounter with the apparition of Mary, they are literally put into a trance. The experience is so pleasurable that the visionaries refer to it as ecstasy.

What other “Lady” (Isaiah 47:5) enchants God’s people (Isaiah 47:6, 9); comes as a “Queen” with a throne (Isaiah 47:1); shows herself around the world as tender, delicate and beautiful (Isaiah 47:1); is hiding her true nature (Isaiah 47:2); wants to be declared “Co-Redemptrix” (Isaiah 47:3, 4); calls herself the “Lady of Kingdoms” (Isaiah 47:5); proclaims that she is our “Mother” (Isaiah 47:8); and seduces God’s people with her sorceries (Isaiah 47:9)?

**NO ONE SEES ME**

Strangely, very few Christians are aware of the scope of this deception. Many accept that the apparitions must be from God; while others are just simply unaware of what is happening. Even among those who realize that the apparitions are demonic, there still remains a spiritual veil which hides the enormity and conclusion of this last days’ delusion. The fact that the true nature of the Queen of Heaven has not been exposed until the very end was also anticipated by God:

For thou hast trusted in thy wickedness: thou hast said, **None seeth me** (Isaiah 47:10).

Isn’t it interesting that the general populace is unaware of the magnitude of events surrounding the Marian apparitions? Even more peculiar is the fact that most biblically literate Christians are ignorant of the apparitions’ activities. God anticipated this! He predicted that her wickedness would stay hidden until the end. Even the apparition of Mary has predicted that her presence would not be fully unveiled to the world until an appointed time:

The Father wants the world to recognize this rank of His maidservant. ...My sign is emerging. God wills it thus. Only my children recognize it, as it reveals itself in secrecy, and they praise the Eternal One for it. Today I cannot reveal my power to the



whole world. I must withdraw with my children. In secrecy I will perform miracles on the souls until the number of sacrifices has become full. ...Then I can reveal myself to the whole world...<sup>233</sup>

She has begun to reveal her power to the whole world. Therefore, according to the Bible, we are in the last moments of this age. Thankfully, God promises to expose her and deliver His people out of her. He will reveal her true nature and save all who call upon His name in truth.

There are other parallels between the virgin described in Isaiah 47, and the present day apparitions of Mary. These are given to encourage followers to at least consider the possibility that the apparition of Mary is not who she claims to be. In the next chapter we will examine several more passages that lend insight into the enormity of this deception.

## CHAPTER 9

# WICKED WOMAN

Throughout this book, we have documented how current trends and events are pointing towards the revelation of a religious delusion that is sweeping the world in the name of Christ. While this phenomenon is not new, it is apparent that the delusion is intensifying. It is global. It involves numerous religions and is therefore ecumenical. Further, it is diabolical in terms of providing a counterfeit to the true gospel and revelation of the true Savior.

The facts that have been presented speak for themselves in terms of the potential this "Queen of All" phenomenon has to deceive the world. While these facts are genuine and revealing, it is also true that few seem to understand what is happening. Those who do understand often seem reluctant to warn of the coming great delusion that is ahead.

In the previous two chapters we have shown how God's Word has warned of a counterfeit Babylonian-like system headed by a woman. If the scenario outlined in this book that reveals a spiritual agenda to deceive the nations is accurate, would not the Bible offer even more clues that make this evident to us in advance? Stop and think of the significance. If Satan has a plan to delude the world by a female goddess claiming to be the mother of the Savior, would not the inspired Word reveal this before it happens?

In this chapter, we will examine several additional Scriptures that indicate this is exactly what God has done. Satan's kingdom is darkness.<sup>234</sup> God's Kingdom is light.<sup>235</sup> Let us see how God's Word will bring light and understanding and expose Satan's deceptive plan.

**THIS IS WICKEDNESS!**

There is a peculiar prophecy in the Book of Zechariah that describes a wicked woman who is carried to the land of Shinar, the location of ancient Babylon. It is important to realize that Zechariah's prophecy was made following Babylon's captivity of Israel and after Babylon had been conquered by the Medes and Persians. This would indicate that this prophecy is yet future! Here is Zechariah's prophecy:

This is the curse that goeth forth over the face of the whole earth...Then the angel that talked with me went forth, and said unto me, Lift up now thine eyes, and see what is this that goeth forth. And I said, What is it? And he said, This is an ephah that goeth forth. He said moreover, **This is their resemblance through all the earth.** And, behold, there was lifted up a talent of lead: and **this is a woman that sitteth in the midst of the ephah.** And he said, **This is wickedness.** ...Whither do these bear the ephah? And he said unto me, To build it an house **in the land of Shinar:** and it shall be established, and set there upon her own base (Zechariah 5:3, 5-8, 10-11).

Once again the Bible warns of a wicked woman who will affect the whole earth during the last days. Zechariah specifies her final destination as "the land of Shinar" which Scripture identifies as the location of Babylon.<sup>236</sup> Amazingly, John, Isaiah and Zechariah all connect a wicked woman with Babylon – where false religion and idolatry originated. In addition, they all indicate that this deception would be global – affecting all nations.

The Zechariah 5 woman is concealed in an ephah (basket) until the angel removes the lead cover. This suggests that her wickedness is hidden, which agrees with Isaiah 47 where the Lady of Kingdoms declares that "none seeth me," and Revelation 17 where this woman has the label "Mystery, Babylon" on her forehead. The word *mystery* means a *hidden secret*.

Also notice that in explaining this global curse that the angel states "This is *their* resemblance through all the earth" (v. 6). The angel then shows Zechariah a wicked woman sitting in a basket. It is interesting

that the woman's resemblance is in the plural – this is *their* resemblance. Does this suggest that the woman has many forms and appearances, and perhaps many demonic spirits under her sway that appear as Mary around the world?

We know that Satan has a great number of fallen angels that do his bidding. Though the devil is not omnipresent, by directing his demons, he can have them manifest in many locations throughout the earth appearing as the same woman at the same time. We are told specifically that in the last days Satan and his fallen angels will go forth into all the world in order to deceive: “And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him” (Revelation 12:9). “For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world” (Revelation 16:14).

We are also told in Zechariah 5 that this global curse will “enter into the house of the thief, and into the house of him that sweareth falsely by My name: and it shall remain in the midst of his house, and shall consume it” (v. 4). As we have documented, those who follow the Queen of Heaven take oaths and consecrate their lives to her in the name of the Lord. These oaths of consecration to the Queen are said in Jesus' name. Therefore, the Queen's followers are swearing falsely in the Lord's name.

This global curse will also enter into “the house of the thief.” What might this mean? Jesus warned: “Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber” (John 10:1). Jesus continued by saying, “I am the door: by Me if any man enter in, he shall be saved” (John 10:9). Jesus is the only door.

Therefore, God would rightly call the Queen's followers thieves – since they are seeking to enter heaven through another way, a different door. They are trusting in the Queen's counterfeit gospel and her false promises, rather than the true gospel found in the Word of God.

### WICKED WOMAN FLEES TO BABYLON

What events will take place so that all prophecies surrounding the “wicked woman” are fulfilled literally and completely? Frank Boyd’s commentary on Babylon offers an interesting conjecture as to how all these prophecies may be tied together:

While [Revelation] chapters 17 and 18 are linked in the term “Babylon,” there is clearly a distinction between the two. In chapter 17 the term is applied to a system, politico-ecclesiastical, but in chapter 18 to a literal city, a great commercial center. Since the transfer of the center of Babylonian mysticism to Rome and its incorporation into the Roman Catholic Church, Rome has been the seat of Babylonish power; but after the consolidation of the 10 kings under the leadership of the beast is effected, it is probable that the seat of power will be transferred to a new capital city in the “land of Shinar,” the Euphrates Valley, the site of ancient Babylon.<sup>237</sup>

Is it possible that the woman will begin her reign in Rome, but move her seat of power to the “land of Shinar,” the site of ancient Babylon? Remember that at the beginning of this woman’s reign she is riding and controlling the beast,<sup>238</sup> but at some point, the beast and his ten kings turn on her to destroy her.<sup>239</sup> When the ten kings turn to destroy her, might she flee from them and return to her ancient homeland?

### THE DESIRE OF WOMEN

Another interesting passage is found in Daniel 11. During the tribulation period the Antichrist will: “exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: ...Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, **nor the desire of women**, nor regard any god: for he shall magnify himself above all” (Daniel 11:36-37).

What does the expression “the desire of women” mean? Scholars hold to three main views. Many believe this expression refers to the desire of all godly Jewish women to bring forth the Messiah. Therefore they believe “the desire of women” refers to the true Messiah whom the Antichrist will blaspheme and disdain.

Some recent commentators believe “the desire of women” refers to the Antichrist’s unnatural sexual preference.

However, the third view agrees perfectly with the context – namely that Antichrist will “exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god” (v. 36). Bible scholar G. H. Pember explains this interpretation:

The expression “the Desire of Women” is placed between two nouns which indubitably refer to concrete gods; it must therefore, itself designate some individual deity which is more especially sought after by women. And having reached this point, our difficulties are over: the deity intended can be no other than the many-named Goddess of Nature, who has been worshiped, and at all times chiefly by women, from the earliest ages to our own days, by Pagans and by apostate Christians of every land.

She is the Beltis, or Mylitta, of the Babylonians; the Ishtar of the Assyrians; the Astarte of the Phoenicians; the Queen of Heaven mentioned by Jeremiah; the Tanata of the Persians; the Isis of the Egyptians; the Shing Moo, or Holy Mother, of the Chinese; the Aphrodite of the Greeks; the Artemis, or Diana, of the Ephesians; the Venus of the Romans...and the Virgin Mary of the Eastern and Western Catholics. This is the goddess of whom we have so often heard as Our Lady of La Salette, Our Lady of Lourdes – to whom it seems there are temples erected even in China...<sup>240</sup>

Several other Bible expositors agree that the “desire of women” refers to this many-named goddess. John Peter Lange explains:

Nor the desire of women nor any god shall he regard... [In view of the Hebrew connection this] cannot possibly signify anything else than a god...We are to conceive, rather, of the goddess of nature among the Asiatics, the Baaltis, Astarte, or Mylitta of the Babylonians, the Persian Artemis, and the Nanaea of the Syrians. This is the more certain, as it is expressly reported of Antiochus that he had inflicted a gross indignity on the worship of this goddess (who is identical with the “queen of heaven,”)...For this reason modern expositors since J. D. Michaelis, Gesenius, Dereser, and Havernick are, with few exceptions, agreed in applying the words to this divinity.<sup>241</sup>

In Revelation 17 the woman begins her reign riding the beast into power (v. 3). The beast represents both the Antichrist and his global empire.<sup>242</sup> Though the woman begins by holding the reigns of power, the beast (Antichrist) will eventually turn on her to destroy her and her religious system during the second half of the tribulation period.<sup>243</sup> At a certain point – perhaps the midpoint – Satan will enter and possess the man whom the Bible calls the beast or the Antichrist. From that point on, Satan will consolidate his seat of power. He will no longer have use of the Queen of Heaven’s guise or her religious system. This is when the Antichrist will exalt his throne above every god, and no longer need or regard the “desire of women.”

### FEMALE IMPOSTOR

Second Thessalonians 2 contains a last days’ prophecy that parallels Daniel’s chapter 11:36-37 revelation. In this familiar passage, the apostle Paul reiterates that Antichrist will exalt himself above every god:

Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin [Antichrist] be revealed, the son of perdition; who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4).

What is very provocative is what the apostle Paul writes a few verses later:

[The coming of the lawless one is according to] the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them **strong delusion**, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness (2 Thessalonians 2:9-12).

God Himself will send a strong delusion. The Greek word translated *delusion* is *plane*. According to *Strong’s Concordance*, the Greek word

*plane* is in the feminine. It is derived from the Greek word *planos*. *Planos* can be defined as a *roving tramp*, an *imposter*, a *misleader*, or a *deceiver*. Apparently God will send (allow?) a deceiver or tramp to those who do not receive the love of the truth.

Jesus said “Thy word is truth” (John 17:17). Therefore, those who reject God’s Word are rejecting the truth. If a person rejects the truth now they will be vulnerable to a grand delusion in the future. How important it is to receive the love of the truth now!

This event occurs during the Tribulation. Could the wicked woman appearing as Mary be the deceiving power that is unleashed during earth’s final days? What other female deceiver is putting forth a lie that contradicts the Word of God and is embraced worldwide?

### WICKED JEZEBEL

Twice Jesus warned of a wicked woman: Matthew 13:33 and Revelation 2:20-23. In Revelation 2, Jesus identifies the woman “Jezebel” as a false prophetess who teaches and seduces His servants to commit idolatry:

Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols. And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not. Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds. (Revelation 2:20-22).

The Greek word translated *fornication* is *porneuo* which can also be translated *idolatry*. As we already noted, God often equates idolatry with spiritual unfaithfulness, because His people are married to Him. “For thy Maker is thine husband; the LORD of hosts is His name” (Isaiah 54:5). Therefore, Jesus was accusing the church of Thyatira of spiritual fornication, encouraged by Jezebel.

Notice that Jesus warns those who are involved with her spiritual fornication that they will be cast into the Great Tribulation unless they repent (v. 20-23). Those who tolerated this spiritual unfaithfulness



(fornication) were as guilty as those who were in bed with her (v. 20). According to the Bible, toleration is as great a sin as the actual act.

Bible students will recognize Jezebel as an appropriate title for this evil, deceptive woman. Jezebel was the most notorious queen in the Old Testament. She led God’s people into false religion through the worship of Baal and the Queen of Heaven. She used her beauty, enticements and unholy alliances with her husband and then with her son, to cause the nation to fall into idolatry. She promoted flagrant idolatry,<sup>244</sup> and even attempted to destroy all of God’s true prophets in Israel.<sup>245</sup> This wicked queen provided for 450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of Asherah (Queen of Heaven) as part of her royal household.<sup>246</sup> Jezebel certainly represents the mother of harlots of the Old Testament.

How appropriate that Jesus referred to the evil “woman” influencing Thyatira as Jezebel. The following table compares some of the similarities between the historical Jezebel with the last days’ queen. This table illustrates how important it is to compare Scripture with Scripture. Remember that the Book of Revelation refers to the Old Testament hundreds of times. Therefore in order to understand why Jesus used Jezebel as representative of this woman who calls herself a prophetess, we must search the whole counsel of God.

<b>Jezebel’s Traits</b>	<b>End Time Harlot’s Traits</b>
<i>A queen</i> . . . . .	<i>A queen</i>
1 Kings 16:31	Isaiah 47:5,8 Revelation 18:7
<i>In control</i> . . . . .	<i>In control</i>
1 Kings 19:1, 2	Isaiah 47:7;
1 Kings 21:7, 8, 15	Revelation 17:1, 3:9, 18
<i>Encourages idolatry</i> . . . . .	<i>Encourages idolatry</i>
1 Kings 21:25-26	Revelation 2:20; 17:4
<i>Described as a harlot</i> . . . . .	<i>Described as a harlot</i>
2 Kings 9:22	Revelation 2:20; 17:1, 5; 19:2

<i>She uses witchcraft. . . . .</i>	<i>She uses witchcraft</i>
2 Kings 9:22	Isaiah 47:9, 12 Revelation 18:23
<i>The source of wickedness . . . . .</i>	<i>The source of wickedness</i>
1 Kings 21:25	Zechariah 5:7, 8
<i>Seductress; Outward beauty . . . . .</i>	<i>Seductress; Outward beauty</i>
2 Kings 9:30	Isaiah 47:1-3 Revelation 17:4; 18:7
<i>A curse on God's people . . . . .</i>	<i>A curse on God's people</i>
2 Kings 9:22	Isaiah 47:6; Zechariah 5:3 Revelation 18:4
<i>Sheds the blood of God's servants . . .</i>	<i>Sheds the blood of God's servants</i>
2 Kings 9:7	Revelation 17:6; 19:2
<i>Massacres God's prophets . . . . .</i>	<i>Massacres God's prophets</i>
1 Kings 18:4	Revelation 18:24
<i>Sits over the king . . . . .</i>	<i>Sits over the king</i>
2 Kings 9:22	Revelation 18:3
<i>Her offspring are destroyed . . . . .</i>	<i>Her offspring are destroyed</i>
2 Kings 9:24	Isaiah 47:9 Revelation 2:23
<i>Her prophets are destroyed. . . . .</i>	<i>Her prophets are destroyed</i>
1 Kings 18:19; 19:1	Isaiah 47:13-14 Zechariah 5:4
<i>She is utterly destroyed . . . . .</i>	<i>She is utterly destroyed</i>
2 Kings 9:33-37	Isaiah 47:11 Revelation 17:16; 18:8

### THE IDOLATROUS PROPHETESS

Who is this woman Jezebel? Why is she called a prophetess and how does she seduce the Lord's servants? To further illuminate these passages, let's examine Tim LaHaye's commentary on the Book of Revelation:

Thyatira comes from two words meaning "sacrifice" and "continual"; this introduces the central heresy that has produced other false doctrines. That is, the church of Rome denies the finished work of Christ but believes in a continual sacrifice which produces such things as sacraments and praying for the dead...a concept that causes man to try to earn his own salvation by works, penance, indulgences, and many other satanically conceived ideas labeled by our Lord in Revelation 2:24 as "the depths of Satan."...Our Lord's selection of the title "Son of God" for Himself is most instructive...to those in the church of Rome who are prone to think of Him as the "Son of Mary."...The teaching of the false prophetess, Jezebel, took two forms: (1) "to seduce (and lead into false teaching) my servants to commit fornication," which is a symbol of the idolatry brought in during this period, and (2) "to eat things sacrificed to idols"...

[Jesus states] "Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds." Our Lord here predicts that this church and those that are persuaded to follow her false teachings will go into the Great Tribulation, when she will, according to Revelation 17, be the church of the Tribulation.<sup>247</sup>

As we have already documented, the Queen of Heaven is certainly the Queen of the Roman Catholic Church. She also encourages her followers to commit idolatry, but does she proclaim that she is the prophetess of these last times?

The following is a quote from the book *The Thunder of Justice*. This book chronicles numerous apparitional messages and predicts that she will soon usher in the era of the triumph of her Immaculate Heart:

However, it remains true that a thorough and broad sampling of Our Lady's messages throughout the world yields a remarkable sense of consistency and logical development. The major issue we

should be aware of is that the warnings are from Mary herself, **the Queen of all Prophets, the Prophetess of our times.** ...On November 22, 1992, Our Blessed Mother stated to Father Gobbi her role very clearly and succinctly. She said, "With the joy of a mother, who sees herself more and more heeded and followed by her little children, along the road which has been pointed out by me, **as Prophetess of these last times in which you are living,** with my Son, Jesus Christ..."<sup>248</sup>

Many more quotes could be given, however Marian followers are very aware that the Queen of Heaven claims to be the "Prophetess of these last times." The next section will offer further insight into the identity of this wicked woman.

### THE KINGDOM PARABLES

Jesus' other reference to an evil woman is found in Matthew 13, which records what are commonly known as the Kingdom Parables. As we shall discover, the parable of the mustard seed and the parable of the woman hiding leaven are connected, so we will look at both in order to understand the context. These two parables have been interpreted by many as revealing the miraculous growth and expansion of the church in the last days. Is this what Jesus meant? Let's examine these two parables:

Another parable put He forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field: Which indeed is the least of all seeds: but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof. Another parable spake He unto them; The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened" (Matthew 13:31-33).

In the mustard seed parable, the man who sowed his field appears to be Jesus, for in the following verses, when His disciples ask Him to explain the parable of the tares of the field (v. 36), Jesus states, "He that soweth the good seed is the Son of Man" (Matthew 13:37). Therefore the sower in the first three kingdom parables is defined by Jesus as Himself. Likewise, the field in the first three parables is also defined by

the Lord: “The field is the world” (Matthew 13:38).

So Jesus sows good seed in the world, and from this smallest of beginnings, grows this enormous tree. The question is not whether the visible church has grown from meager beginnings to an enormous institution. The question is, does the Lord indicate this growth is healthy, natural, and true to its mustard seed beginnings?

#### **A MUSTARD TREE?**

The first paradox that we notice in the mustard seed parable is that Jesus declares when it is grown it is the “greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree” (v. 32). Of course, a mustard seed produces a mustard plant not a tree. In Luke’s Gospel, we are told that this mustard seed grows into a “great tree” (Luke 13:19). While a mustard plant may grow several feet, it does not compare to large trees that can grow to over a hundred feet tall. Why did Jesus use this expression to illustrate the growth of the kingdom? What significance does a tree have in the Bible?

The tree is used figuratively in several passages. For instance, in Ezekiel chapter 31, God announces judgment on Egypt by comparing her to the once proud Assyrian empire. In these verses, pagan Assyria is described as a great tree that the birds of the heaven made their nests in: “Behold, the Assyrian was a cedar in Lebanon with fair branches, and with a shadowing shroud, and of an high stature; and his top was among the thick boughs...Therefore his height was exalted above all the trees of the field...All the fowls of heaven made their nests in his boughs ... and under his shadow dwelt all great nations” (v. 3, 5, 6).

Clearly, the Lord is not commending the Assyrians for their greatness, for they were judged. Rather, God is pointing out to the proud and great Egyptian nation that if He judged the great Assyrian “tree”, then they too would be judged. The tree in this passage is used metaphorically to describe a great and powerful institution that dominated the world at that time, yet was corrupt to its core.

Likewise, in the Book of Daniel, God, through the prophet, pronounces judgment on Nebuchadnezzar’s Babylonian kingdom: “I saw, and behold a tree in the midst of the earth, and the height thereof was great. The tree grew, and was strong, and the height thereof reached

unto heaven, and the sight thereof to the end of all the earth...the birds of the heavens dwelt in its branches, and all flesh was fed from it" (Daniel 4:10-12). Here again we see the Lord using a tree filled with birds to describe a powerful, yet evil, world system.

### THE BIRDS OF THE AIR

There is yet another clue in the mustard seed parable that indicates the growth of the kingdom is not healthy, normal growth. We are told by Jesus that this great tree harbors "the birds of the air" (Matthew 13:32). In the parable of the sower, it is the birds that come and devour the good seed (Matthew 13:4). In the kingdom parables, Jesus uses birds figuratively to represent Satan's agents who devour the Word of God. In fact, throughout the Scriptures the birds of the air are often portrayed as opportunists, scavengers, and predators.<sup>249</sup> Nowhere in the Bible are believers referred to as birds.

Not all commentators view the mustard seed parable as describing the miraculous growth and expansion of Christ's church over the entire earth. A number have applied Scripture to Scripture and have concluded that the Lord meant just the opposite:

The little mustard seed, which was not destined to be a tree but only a shrub...develops against its nature into a tree. That which came from Him, the Son of Man, the Sower, develops, committed into the hands of men, into an unnatural thing – one might say, a monstrosity – for such a mustard *tree* is. This unnatural thing, this monstrosity, is professing Christendom as a system of the world, professing Christ, without possessing Him and His Spirit...The birds which roost in that tree would mean, if the parable applies to the church, converted sinners. Do birds ever represent clean persons? We need not go outside of this chapter to answer this. The birds which fell upon the seed which had fallen by the wayside were instruments of Satan. ...Birds in this parable mean unsaved, unconverted people and nations who flock for selfish motives to the tree, the outward form of Christendom, and find shelter there.<sup>250</sup>

The Mustard Seed. This parable resembles the first two in that all mention a man, a field, and seed. Consistently interpreted, in each

the man symbolizes Christ, the field is the world, and the seed is the Word which tells of Christ and his kingdom. Mustard seed. Its smallness was proverbial (cf. Matthew 17:20). Yet in this instance it grows until it is greater than the herbs (ASV), and it becomes a tree. ... That such growth is regarded as unfavorable is suggested by the birds that lodge in the branches. In this parable series, birds are agents of evil (13:4, 19), as they are frequently in Scripture (Jeremiah 5:26, 27; Revelation 18:2). History confirms the fact that from the smallest beginning, the church made astounding growth through the proclamation of Christ's message. Yet such unusual growth has provided roosting places for those who are enemies of God, who seek the shade and fruit of the tree for their own interests (even nations like to be called "Christian").<sup>251</sup>

[The Parable of the Mustard Seed] is another picture of the course of this age, and it is not a good picture. The other parables tell of tares among the wheat, bad fish with the good, much of the sower's seed wasted, etc. The parables do not picture the kingdom of Christ growing, expanding, and developing of itself and taking the world. This parable has often been interpreted as showing a great and blessed growth of the kingdom during this age, but that is evidently not the intention of the Saviour.

A picture of a great denominational system during the tribulation time is given, I think, in Revelation, chapter 17. It seems to be a picture of Roman Catholicism come to its last and highest fruit, probably with other denominations joined in after the saints are called out of the world. Then in chapter 18, read verse 2, where this great evil system which will head up in Rome at that time is accursed by the angel saying, "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hateful BIRD."<sup>252</sup>

## APOSTASY

That the parable cannot be interpreted as meaning that Christ's true church will grow until it converts the world, is evident from many other passages. The Holy Spirit expressly says that in the last days some will depart from the faith giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of devils.<sup>253</sup> Paul reminds Timothy that evil men and impostors will grow

worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.<sup>254</sup> Christ Himself warns that as this age draws to a close, conditions on earth will continue their downward spiral.<sup>255</sup>

Rather than the church pervading earth, causing global conversion, the Bible teaches that the world will pervade and corrupt the visible church. Of course, God is proclaiming His gospel around the world,<sup>256</sup> and there will be a great revival during the Tribulation,<sup>257</sup> but apostasy is what is warned about preceding the Tribulation.<sup>258</sup>

Clearly, the parable of the mustard seed, when interpreted with the whole of Scripture, forewarned what we are witnessing today. Multitudes of professing Christians are joining hands to try and usher in the kingdom of God on earth at the expense of truth. They are attempting to take things into their own hands rather than trusting God and resting in His promises. Ironically, this prediction by Jesus shows that He is God and He alone holds the future in His hands. Who but Almighty God could look forward 2,000 years and anticipate the global ecumenical movement that we are witnessing in our day?

As we shall discover, Christ's prophecy given in the parable of the leaven is also absolutely accurate and in agreement with the events developing before our eyes.

#### **A WOMAN HIDES LEAVEN**

After Jesus spoke the parable of the mustard seed, in His very next breath He spoke another parable to them – the parable of the woman hiding leaven. Matthew 13:31-33 and Luke 13:18-21 reveal that these two parables belong together – they make a pair. The first, the parable of the mustard seed reveals the outward development of error in the church due to an unholy marriage between the church and the world. The second parable, as we will see, deals with the secret and inward development of error that permeates and corrupts the visible church. The parable of the woman who hides leaven is as follows:

The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened (Matthew 13:33).



What does this parable mean? Bible teacher Chuck Smith comments – “Some have misunderstood this to mean that the Church will grow to encompass the whole earth, but leaven always is negative and has a bad influence when it is present, so Jesus was saying that there is a leavening influence in the Church.”<sup>259</sup>

In the Bible leaven is always a type of sin (Exodus 12:19-20; Leviticus 2:11; Hosea 7:1-4; Matthew 16:6; Mark 8:15; Luke 12:1-2; Galatians 5:9; etc.). The apostle Paul explains that leaven represents wickedness in his letter to the Corinthians:

Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us: Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth (1 Corinthians 5:6-8).

In reviewing all the Scriptures referring to leaven, we discover that leaven is always used in the Bible as an agent that corrupts and secretly permeates God’s truth with sin, error, and wickedness. Certainly, Jesus meant nothing good when He described the woman secretly infiltrating the pure lump of flour with the nearly imperceptible leaven.

Christ prophesied that this leaven, this wickedness, this corruption, would spread through the entire lump of meal “till the whole was leavened” (Matthew 13:33). In other words, the work of this woman would be, to all but Christ’s disciples, concealed until her leaven completely spread.

### **IS SHE THE SAME WICKED WOMAN?**

The question remaining is – who is this woman? Interpretation from *The Wycliffe Bible Commentary* gives us insight:

The woman (in contrast with the man in the other parables) is the opponent of Christ and infuses the kingdom in this age with false doctrine. Elsewhere she is called “Wickedness” (Zechariah 5:7, 8), “Jezebel” (Revelation 2:20), and the “great harlot” (Revelation

17:1). By this characterization of leaven in the meal, believers are warned to beware of false doctrine that would infiltrate all parts of the kingdom in its interregal aspect.<sup>260</sup>

Is it reasonable to connect these prophecies together? Are they referring to the same mystical, evil woman? Consider these additional facts: The lady of kingdoms described in Isaiah chapter 47 declares that “none seeth me” (v. 10). She believes her deception is hidden, while the Zechariah 5 woman is concealed under a lead covering (v. 7), and the Revelation 17 woman is labeled a mystery – or literally a hidden secret.

The fact that the woman in the Matthew 13 parable *hides* the leaven in three measures of meal also indicates her mischief is concealed. It is the wicked who plot in secret (Psalm 64:2). They love to hide their wickedness in the darkness (John 3:19-20). In contrast, the true church is neither to hide from the world, nor conceal the gospel (Luke 8:16-17; John 3:21). We are to walk in the light and shine the light of God’s truth (Matthew 5:16; Philippians 2:15; 1 John 1:5-7).

Therefore, the lady of kingdoms of Isaiah 47, the wicked woman of Zechariah 5, the harlot queen of Revelation 17 and 18, and the woman of Matthew 13 are obviously wicked, and their actions and intents are sinister.

Also, recall that the woman in Zechariah’s vision is called “Wickedness” (Zechariah 5:7-8); The lady of kingdoms in Isaiah’s prophecy has trusted in her “wickedness” (Isaiah 47:10); And the leaven which the woman hides represents “wickedness” (1 Corinthians 5:8).

Furthermore, the woman in Matthew 13 hides the leaven in “three measures of meal” (v. 33). Three measures equal exactly one ephah<sup>261</sup>—which is what the Zechariah 5 wicked woman is concealed or hiding in – “this is a woman that sitteth in the midst of the ephah” (v. 7).

In addition, three measures of meal turns out to be the exact amount customarily used in a meal offering to God (Genesis 18:6; Judges 6:19; 1 Samuel 1:24). Any student of the Old Testament knows that leaven has absolutely no place in a meal offering. This fact offers further evidence that the woman is infusing corruption into the pure meal.

## THE MYSTICAL WOMEN

Commentator John Philips also connects the Matthew 13 woman with the woman of Revelation 17. There are three mystical women who appear in the New Testament: One is the earthy Jerusalem of Galatians 4:25, which cannot be the woman of the parable who acted in secret. Earthy Jerusalem made no secret of her opposition to Christ. Neither did she try to introduce error into the truth of Christ – she rejected it out of hand.

The second mystical woman is the heavenly Jerusalem of Galatians 4:26 and Revelation 21:2. Since she is called the “holy city”, she cannot be the same as the woman in the parable. Moreover the heavenly Jerusalem has nothing to do with this age.

The other mystical woman is Babylon (Revelation 17:5) – not the literal city of Babylon on the Euphrates, but a mystical religious system located at Rome (Revelation 17:9, 18). John Phillips identifies the woman who put the leaven into the meal as representative of the Roman religious system, who has her roots in the ancient Babylonish system that eventually took over the church, turned it into Christendom, and left its leaven everywhere.<sup>262</sup>

One final explanation from H. A. Ironside also links these prophecies together. Ironside summarizes what Jesus warned would occur during His absence:

In the parable the woman is surreptitiously hiding the leaven in the meal offering. The three measures of meal certainly do not represent the world, but rather the truth of God concerning His Son. The woman is not the Church, as such, but is the false church – that woman, Jezebel, of whom we read in Revelation 2:20, who calls herself a prophetess, and teaches the servants of God unholy principles which are subversive of the faith. Is not this exactly what has been taking place during the past almost two millennia of Church history?<sup>263</sup>

## SUMMARY

In chapters 7 through 9, we have examined numerous Scriptures and seven prophetic passages that offer significant insight into the global deception that is occurring in our day. Certainly God has given us much

warning in advance. Let's summarize these biblical admonitions.

Jeremiah specifies the Queen of Heaven as the one who seduced God's people in the past. Solomon warns that if it has happened in the past, it will surely be repeated. Isaiah describes a wicked "virgin" and "mother" who is called "the Lady of Kingdoms." Jesus identifies an evil prophetess "Jezebel" and her idolatrous activities. Jezebel and her followers will be cast into the Great Tribulation unless they repent. Jesus also warns of a wicked woman who secretly infuses her corrupt doctrine. John describes the mother of harlots as a woman who refers to herself as "Queen." Zechariah explains that there will be a worldwide curse related to a wicked woman. Daniel prophesies that Antichrist will exalt himself above an end-times female goddess. Paul states that God will send a strong delusion to those who reject truth. And several other prophecies anticipate idolatry and goddess worship during earth's final days.

Taken as a whole, the many clues strongly suggest that the entity or entities that appear as Mary will be the energizing force behind the world's final counterfeit church.

## **RETURN OF THE GODDESS**

In conclusion, this quote taken from the book *Myths of the Female Divine Goddess* sum up why now is the time to heed the warnings of the Bible about the reappearance of a global Babylonian-like religion in the name of Christ – headed by the Queen of Heaven:

But Goddess has never died, and one of the major spiritual and psychological phenomena of our time has been her reemergence as a significant presence in our lives. She has founded a central place in several of the great world religions – particularly, Catholicism and Hinduism. Goddess has been revived in modern cults, the spiritual ancestors of which are the earth cults of Demeter, Isis, and Asherah. She has made herself known in the metaphors, the myths, of modern science – particularly, psychology and climatology. She has expressed herself politically and sociologically in the drive for a new wholeness – a new spiritual, psychological, and physical ecology – that is the power behind what we call the women's movement. Goddess is returning because she is needed.

The return of Goddess in the patriarchal religious context is most clearly illustrated in the progress of the Virgin Mary from her original status in the New Testament as humble birth-giver and grieving mother to that of immaculately conceived Queen of Heaven....Over the centuries, other folk traditions attached themselves to Mary. Special goddess cakes were offered up to her, as they had been earlier to Asherah.

But as Queen, Mary grew in power. She was the Church itself, in which Christ was contained. She became in a sense the Bride of Christ and was often referred to as such. Once again, Goddess has emerged in union with the sacrificed son-lover. Churches were named for her more often than for other saints or for Jesus. Statues and paintings of Mary became and remain objects for both private and public adoration. In these works, Mary is depicted more often as crowned queen than as humble maiden. Sometimes she holds the crowned Christ-king on her lap, much as Isis held the pharaohs of Egypt on hers. Many of the Virgin Mary paintings and statues, especially in France, depict a Black Madonna, linking Mary to other Black Goddesses whose color reflects the dark earth of Goddess's origins. To these objects of devotion, magical powers and sometimes strange rituals and celebrations have been attached.<sup>264</sup>

## CHAPTER 10

# COME OUT OF HER MY PEOPLE

It is apparent from reading the previous statements that a revival of Babylonism in the name of Christ is now underway. There are several other Scriptures that support this last days' scenario that will be examined (Lord willing) in a future book – *The Coming Reign of the Queen of Heaven and Her Eucharistic Christ*. However, these Scriptures are sufficient to show that the Bible indicates that this harlot's false religion will encompass the globe. Her counterfeit church will consist of people from all nations, multitudes, and tongues. But God's call is to "Come out of her, My people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues" (Revelation 18:4).

### THE GOOD NEWS

Perhaps this book has opened your eyes to the idolatry that is happening around the globe. You now see this deception through the lens of God's Word and you want to know how to escape God's judgment. Those who follow the apparition of Mary are taught that they can be saved through pious acts and devotion to her. Praying the rosary, saying novenas, wearing the brown scapular or the miraculous metal, receiving the Eucharist, and other religious acts are the means to obtain eternal life according to the apparition of Mary. The Queen teaches that we can earn our salvation through good works. Yet the only gospel that saves is found in the Bible.

Gospel simply means "good news." Since the time of Adam and Eve and the Fall in the Garden of Eden, mankind has been under the curse.

As sinners we are under God's just condemnation. God declares repeatedly that the penalty for sin is death, both physical death and eternal death in the Lake of Fire. God hates sin and will not permit any unclean thing into heaven.

God cannot lie – unless our sins are paid for, we will be forever separated from Him. Our only hope is that Someone who is perfect will pay for our sin debt. This is exactly what Jesus Christ did. Jesus paid the full penalty for our sins on the cross. He was our substitute – dying in our place. He paid the death penalty demanded by our sin. God made Jesus' soul an offering for sin.<sup>265</sup> Every person has the liberty to accept God's free gift of forgiveness. By repenting of our sins and placing our trust in Jesus as the one who has paid our sin debt, we are forgiven and heaven-bound!

In our fallen nature, we feel compelled to merit God's favor. We imagine that we are good enough to deserve salvation. However, the Word of God is clear: no one can merit salvation. We can't earn a gift. We can only receive it by faith.

I will declare thy righteousness, and thy works; for they shall not profit thee (Isaiah 57:12).

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast (Ephesians 2:8, 9).

Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us (Titus 3:5).

### **ONLY JESUS SAVES**

The Good News found in the Bible is presented in clear, indisputable language. From beginning to end, God's Word declares that salvation is by faith alone in Jesus alone. What must we do to be saved?

This is the work of God, that ye believe on [Jesus] whom He hath sent (John 6:29).

Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved... (Acts 16:30, 31).

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved (Romans 10:9).

Repent ye, and believe the gospel (Mark 1:15).

### **BE PERFECT OR PERISH**

Why is Jesus the only way? Why can't we deserve, earn or merit salvation? Shouldn't good works and righteous deeds appease God?

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said, "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect" (Matthew 5:48). Jesus was simply restating what God's law had already commanded: "Cursed be he that confirmeth not all the words of this law to do them" (Deuteronomy 27:26). The Ten Commandments – written by God Himself on two stony tablets – demand perfection. In order to merit heaven, a person must obey God's law in its entirety.

For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all (James 2:10).

Have you been perfect in thought, word, and deed? Jesus explained that if you've ever lusted in your heart you are an adulterer at heart (Matthew 5:27, 28). He stated that hatred was equivalent to murder (Matthew 5:21, 22). He explained that every lie ever spoken is from the evil one (Matthew 5:37). Have you ever lied? Hated? Lusted in your heart? If you answered yes to these three questions, then by your own admission you are a lying, murdering, adulterer at heart.

Jesus even said that we would be judged and condemned for a single idle word (Matthew 12:36). If your only sin were that you gossiped about or slandered another, you would still be found guilty on the Day of Judgment.

The third commandment states unequivocally that, "Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh His name in vain" (Exodus 20:7). Have you ever used God's name or Jesus Christ as a curse word? Have you used the Lord's name lightly? If so, then you have likened your Creator, the One who gave you your breath, your eyes, sunsets, flowers, food, family,



and friends, etc., you have likened Him to a four-letter curse word. You have taken His name in vain. All who have blasphemed the Creator's holy name will be without excuse when they stand before the throne of God.

God is holy and He abhors all sin. Every sin will be judged. Whether your sin is idolatry, selfishness, pride, envy, drunkenness or any other transgression, you will be found guilty on the day when God judges the world in righteousness. The Bible is clear, "the soul that sinneth, it shall die" (Ezekiel 18:4). And remember, God sees every past thought, word, and deed as if it just occurred. Nothing is hidden from His holy eyes.

Furthermore, there is nothing we can do to blot out or erase the past. No good work will appease God. God will not accept a bribe. As a just judge, the penalty for our sin must be paid. The penalty is death and eternal separation from God in hell (Romans 6:23).

But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid His face from you (Isaiah 59:2).

#### **GOD'S PERFECT MIRROR**

The law is God's holy mirror. When we gaze at God's law, we see ourselves from God's righteous vantage point. The Ten Commandments (Exodus 20) and the words of Jesus, reveal just how far each of us falls short of God's perfection.

By studying the law of God, we grasp our need for the Savior. The law reveals the depths of our depravity (Romans 7:13). Yet, God's commandments cannot save us. A mirror can't cleanse, but it is able to reveal our true condition as God sees us. "Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in His sight: **for by the law is the knowledge of sin**" (Romans 3:20). Ultimately, the law was meant to point us to the Savior:

Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith (Galatians 3:24).

## **CHRIST – THE FULFILLMENT OF THE LAW AND THE PROPHETS**

The wonderful news found in the Bible is that Jesus fulfilled the perfect requirements of the law in our stead (Matthew 5:17). He always did those things which pleased the Father (John 8:29). Jesus was perfect in thought, word, and deed.

His very purpose in coming to this earth was to redeem us “from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us” (Galatians 3:13). Jesus purchased our salvation on the cross and offers it as a gift to all who turn from trusting in their own goodness and put their faith and hope in Him. The penalty for our sins has been paid in full. This is indeed Good News!

How can we be sure that Jesus is the only Savior? The Bible specifies a number of explicit qualifications that the Messiah must fulfill.

- 1) He must be fully man to pay for the sins of mankind (1 Corinthians 15:21).
- 2) He must be fully God to pay the infinite price for mankind's sins (2 Corinthians 5:18, 19).
- 3) He must fulfill God's entire law perfectly (Matthew 5:17).
- 4) He must fulfill the 300 plus Old Testament prophecies pointing to the Messiah (Luke 18:31).
- 5) He must shed His blood for the sin of the world (Hebrews 9:22).
- 6) He must die as our substitute for the sin of the world (Romans 6:23).
- 7) He must rise from the dead to defeat death and Satan (Psalm 16:10).

The Bible's requirements exclude all but Christ. No other person, not Mary, the saints, angels, Muhammad, Krishna, Buddha, Confucius, or any other created being fulfilled what only the God-man could.

**JESUS IS THE DOOR**

The messages of the apparition of Mary lead followers to believe that there are multiple paths to heaven.<sup>266</sup> This, of course, is well received by the world, but it contradicts the clear scriptural teaching that Jesus is the only way. Throughout history man has attempted to reach God through many means. The Bible highlights the most common. These include outward appearances, religion, rituals, good works, keeping the law, and others. Yet, God rejected these means and pointed His people to the coming Lamb of God who would take upon Himself the sins of the world. His substitutionary death alone satisfied God's justice.

In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus says that the way to destruction is broad and many enter it, but few go through the narrow gate that leads to eternal life.

Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it (Matthew 7:13-14).

Jesus is the door that leads to heaven: "I am the door: by Me if any man enter in, he shall be saved" (John 10:9). Compare Jesus' words with the following message from Our Lady of San Nicolas, whose messages have been approved by the local Catholic bishop: "My children: I am the door of Heaven and the help on earth."<sup>267</sup>

Tragically, Jesus predicted that many would try to enter heaven through another "door." Many would seek to enter heaven through a different way other than Christ.

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber (John 10:1).

Then said one unto Him, Lord, are there few that be saved? And He said unto them, Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able. When once the master of the house is risen up, and hath shut to the door, and ye begin to stand without, and to knock at the door, saying, Lord, Lord, open unto us; and He shall answer and say unto you, I

know you not whence ye are: Then shall ye begin to say, We have eaten and drunk in Thy presence, and Thou hast taught in our streets. But He shall say, I tell you, I know you not whence ye are; depart from Me, all ye workers of iniquity (Luke 13:23-27).

The only gate that leads to eternal life is Jesus Christ. Trying to enter some other way is rejection of God's Word. Yet, the following message from the apparition, which also carries the Imprimatur of a Catholic cardinal and bishop, claims that Mary is the gate: "I am the Gate which opens upon your salvation because, through it, every one of you must pass to arrive at your personal encounter with the Lord. For this, my Son Jesus has constituted me true Mother of all humanity. Only if you pass through this, my Gate, can you gain entrance into the heavenly garden."<sup>268</sup>

On the contrary, only by repenting of your sins and trusting Jesus Christ of Nazareth, the only Lord and Savior, will you be saved. If your trust is in any other, you have been led astray. Turn to Him today.

And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life (1 John 5:11, 12).

## **GOD IS LOVE**

The apparition universally proclaims that she is our loving Mother. Yet, God's Word states that "God is love" (1 John 4:16). God alone is perfectly holy and perfectly loving and merciful. Some people believe that God's love and holiness are conflicting attributes. Therefore they turn to the apparition of Mary when they need help. However, if God is perfect in love, He must also be perfect in righteousness. He must always do what is right. A truly loving God could never lie for instance. He could never steal, deceive, go back on His Word, or be unfaithful. God's love demands that He is perfectly righteous. And His holiness demands that He is perfect in love. These characteristics are inseparable. Anything less and God would not be perfect nor would heaven be paradise.

Here is the main point: God desires an exclusive, intimate, loving relationship with each and every human being. Therefore He has given

us the freedom to choose His gift of love – Jesus Christ. He has also allowed an option – Satan’s false charm and empty pleasures. However, as our Creator, God alone can provide for our needs and satisfy our deepest longings.

Furthermore, His love and righteousness necessitate a salvation plan that is simple and available to all. God has confined all under sin so that all who trust in Christ might receive the promise of eternal life by faith (Galatians 3:22). Anyone from anywhere can trust in the Lord. Any other requirement for salvation would not be available to all. God has made it very simple. His love demands it.

In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins (1 John 4:9-10).

#### **A FINAL WORD**

If you have read through this book and have considered the contents, then it is the authors’ desire that you would take a moment and consider the following important thoughts. A number of facts have been presented and numerous Scriptures have been stated. Now it would be appropriate for you to draw some conclusions.

Suppose you were a judge or the member of a jury. What verdict would you make if you were asked to come to a final decision? It is obvious that this book is only a concise overview of a much larger scenario. Based on the information that has been presented, you have enough information to make an intelligent decision.

Some who have read through this book will no doubt be scoffers and refuse to consider the serious consequences for those who embrace the Marian apparitions as holy and from God. Others may realize the significance of the apparitions but still refuse to make any decision. And some will no doubt seriously consider what they have read and be forever changed. Every person has a free will and a mind. Intelligent choices can be made based on the observable evidence. What you do with the information that is found in this book is entirely up to you.

It is common knowledge that judges or juries have the responsibility to determine what is true and what is false. Perhaps it would be beneficial to ask you the following question: Is Mary “Queen of All” or is Jesus the only “Potentate [sovereign], the King of kings, and Lord of lords”? (1 Timothy 6:15). Are the apparitions of Mary really the Mary of the Bible or could they be part of a satanic delusion designed to deceive the world in the name of Jesus in the last days?

While the apparitions claim that the world must accept her plan for peace, the Bible states that Jesus alone is our peace.<sup>269</sup> Further, while Jesus stated clearly that He was the “narrow way” and the only way, the Queen of Heaven seems to suggest that the way to salvation is quite wide and widening day by day.

Finally, Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me” (John 14:6). Also, in the Bible we read that Mary, the mother of Jesus said, “Whatsoever [Jesus] saith unto you, do it” (John 2:5). The authors of this book agree with these words proclaimed by Mary.

On one occasion Jesus said: “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). If Jesus said this, and His mother agreed that we should accept everything that He said, then should we not be suspicious when the apparitional Mary makes statements saying that she shares in the redemption process? These statements are not only contradictory to the words proclaimed by Jesus – such an idea is blasphemous.

## **DECISION TIME**

Is the “Queen of All” an impostor? If so, what should one do? To accept that the statements made by the apparitional Mary are on par with Holy Scripture would be spiritual suicide. Exposing her would be consistent with the biblical mandate to warn people about false teachers and lying signs and wonders. The authors of this book have written these pages with this very purpose in mind. They have felt an urgency to cry out a warning.

Now, you the reader must make a choice. What decision will you make? Either Jesus Christ is King alone or the apparitional woman is Queen of All. If you choose the woman who says she is the Co-Redeemer, you are making a choice that is not found in the Bible. In other words, you have accepted a choice based on an experience beyond the revelation that is given in God's Word. The consequences of making such a choice, should you not change, will be an eternity in hell according to the Bible.<sup>270</sup> If you choose Jesus, you will spend eternity in heaven with Him. Jesus will not force you to make the decision. You must choose.

At this point you may still be wondering, what can I do? Perhaps you sense that you are caught in a trap. Maybe you just realized this is the case and you do not know what to do to get free. The answer is simple. If you are reading this sentence, you still have time. Ask Jesus Christ to forgive you for your sins. Trust Him alone to save you.

The word *alone* is the key. Remember that for one to be saved there is no other way than the narrow way. There is nothing else and no one else who can save you. Not Mary. Not any man. Not a church. Not tradition. Not the sacraments. You are saved only by the grace of God.

Eternal life is a gift from God. Accept the simple gospel or reject the simple gospel. The gift is for you if you choose. Our prayer is that you will.

*Tetlow, Oakland and Myers*

# ENDNOTES

## CHAPTER 1

### QUEEN OF ALL

<sup>1</sup> Ecstasy comes from the Greek word *ekstasis*, meaning trance. In the Book of Acts, both Peter and Paul fell into a trance (Gr. *ekstasis*) during a vision from God (Refer to Acts 10:10; 22:17).

<sup>2</sup> Thomas Petrisko, *Call of the Ages*, Santa Barbara, CA, Queenship Publishing, 1995, p. 303. Message received by Barbara Ruess, Marienfried, Germany, June 25, 1946.

<sup>3</sup> Timothy Green Beckley & Art Crockett, *Secret Prophecy of Fatima Revealed*, New Brunswick, NJ, Inner Light Publications, 1991, pp. 106, 107. Message received by Italian visionary Rosa Quattrini. Compare this Marian message with Zechariah 5, where we are told of a woman, whom God refers to as “Wickedness,” who goes forth throughout the entire earth.

<sup>4</sup> “Your Mother of Light to the World.” Online posting: [www.movingheartfoundation.com/wd4-m-sept24.htm](http://www.movingheartfoundation.com/wd4-m-sept24.htm), Nov. 2, 2005. Message given to Chris Courtis a visionary in Maryland, U.S.A., on September 24, 2004.

<sup>5</sup> “5 Million Pilgrims Visit Virgin’s Shrine,” *Orange County Register*, Dec. 13, 1999, p. 20.

<sup>6</sup> Margaret Rameriz, “Huge Throng Hails Virgin of Guadalupe,” *Los Angeles Times*, Dec. 12, 1999, p. B13.

<sup>7</sup> Wayne Weible, *The Final Harvest*, Brewster, MA, Paraclette Press, 1999, p. xiv.

<sup>8</sup> “Virgin Mary’s Messenger Draws Huge Crowd for Final Sermon,” *Los Angeles Times*, Oct. 14, 1998, p. A16.

<sup>9</sup> Petrisko, p. xxix.



<sup>10</sup> Mark Garvey, *Searching for Mary: An Exploration of Marian Apparitions Across the U.S.*, New York, The Penguin Group, 1998, p. 25.

<sup>11</sup> Charles Dickson, *A Protestant Pastor Looks at Mary*, Huntington, Indiana, Our Sunday Visitor Publishing division, 1996, p. 103.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid., p. 104. Also known as Our Lady of Jasna Gora or the Black Madonna.

<sup>13</sup> *Knock: The Apparition Gable From 1879 To the Present*, Cashin Printing Services, pp. 3, 19.

<sup>14</sup> Steve Beauclair, "Skyscraper statue slated for Sabana Grande: \$42 million Virgin Mary part of Mystical City," *Caribbean Business*, Feb. 26, 1998, Late News cover story. Note: The 305 foot high statue will be set on a 1,200 foot base, giving a structure whose total height is 1,500 feet.

<sup>15</sup> Dickson, pp.103, 104.

<sup>16</sup> *3rd International Day of Prayer of The Lady of All Nations*, Amsterdam, May 31, 1999, The Family of Mary Coredeмпrix, Videocassette, 1999.

<sup>17</sup> Josef Kunzli, editor, *The Messages of The Lady of All Nations*, Santa Barbara, CA, Queenship Publishing, 1996, p. 85.

<sup>18</sup> *3rd International Day of Prayer of The Lady of All Nations*.

<sup>19</sup> Kenneth L. Woodward, "Hail, Mary," *Newsweek*, Aug. 25, 1997, p. 50.

<sup>20</sup> Jan Connell, *Queen of the Cosmos*, Brewster, MA, Paraclete Press, 1990, p. 4.

<sup>21</sup> Petrisko, p. xxix.

<sup>22</sup> Rev. Charles Dickson, Ph.D., *Queen Magazine*, March-April 1994.

<sup>23</sup> Br. Francis Mary, F.F.I., *Marian Shrines of Italy*, San Francisco, CA, Ignatius Press, 2000.

<sup>24</sup> Michael H. Brown, *The Last Secret*, Ann Arbor, MI, Servant Publications, 1998, p. 281.

<sup>25</sup> "Message given July 25, 1990," Online posting: [www.medjugorje.org/msg90.htm](http://www.medjugorje.org/msg90.htm), May 1, 2000.

<sup>26</sup> Richard J. Beyer, *Medjugorje Day By Day*, Notre Dame, IN., Ave Maria Press, 1993, April 6th meditation.

<sup>27</sup> "Betania - I come to reconcile them," Online posting:

<http://members.aol.com/bjw1106/marian9.htm>, Aug. 28, 1998.

<sup>28</sup> Dickson, *A Protestant Pastor Looks at Mary*, p. 60.

<sup>29</sup> William Lobdell and Jennifer Mena, "Our Lady: Not Just for Catholics," *Los Angeles Times*, Dec. 12, 2003, p. B-1.

<sup>30</sup> David Van Biema, "Hail, Mary," *Time Magazine*, March 21, 2005, pp. 62, 68.

<sup>31</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 69.

<sup>32</sup> R. Albert Mohler, Jr., *The Christian Post*, "Mary for Protestants? A New Look at an Old Question," March 18, 2005.

<sup>33</sup> Elaine Gale, "Mary's Rising Popularity Goes Beyond Faith," *Los Angeles Times*, Dec. 25, 1998, p. A41.

<sup>34</sup> Kunzli, p. 89. Message given on May 31, 1955.

<sup>35</sup> Robert Sullivan, "The Mystery of Mary," *Life Magazine*, Dec., 1996, p. 45.

<sup>36</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 45, 58, 60.

<sup>37</sup> *Our Lady of Fatima's Peace Plan From Heaven*, Tan Books and Publishers, Inc., 1983, pp. 7-8.

<sup>38</sup> Thomas W. Petrisko, editor, "Our Lady of the Rosary in Puerto Rico," *Our Lady Queen of Peace*, McKees Rock, PA, Pittsburgh Center for Peace, Special Edition I, 2nd Printing, Winter 1992, p. 13.

<sup>39</sup> "Filipinos flock to glimpse vision of Mary," *The Tennessean*, Volume 89, Number 66, Mar. 7, 1993, p. 2A.

<sup>40</sup> Beyer, Introduction.

## CHAPTER 2

### QUEEN OF ROME

<sup>41</sup> Marian devotion in the Eastern Church is enormous. For example, Roger Oakland has traveled to Russia over 30 times and has witnessed the widespread and very visible Marian influence affecting every aspect of the Russian Orthodox Church. In Russia, icons and images of Mary are more prominent, numerous and attended to than any other figure. Dr. Kenneth Lawson has traveled throughout Eastern Europe researching and documenting the widespread devotion to Mary, particularly in the Eastern Orthodox Church. Ken has written a book entitled *The Mary Movement* in which he

documents Mary's significant influence around the globe with many references to her exultation in Eastern Orthodoxy. Truly Mary could also be called Queen of the Orthodox Church.

<sup>42</sup> Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger with Vittorio Messori, *The Ratzinger Report*, San Francisco, CA, Ignatius Press, 1985, pp. 111-112.

<sup>43</sup> "Pope Benedict's XVI's 1st Public Greeting," Online posting: [www.zenit.org](http://www.zenit.org), ZENIT News Agency, The World Seen From Rome, April 26, 2005.

<sup>44</sup> "Marian Thoughts of Pope Benedict XVI," Online posting: [www.udayton.edu/mary/popessaying.html](http://www.udayton.edu/mary/popessaying.html), University of Dayton's Marian Page, Dec. 4, 2005.

<sup>45</sup> Ibid.

<sup>46</sup> Ibid.

<sup>47</sup> Ibid.

<sup>48</sup> "Our Lady of Guadalupe Receives Papal Visit – We Place Our Lives in Your Maternal Hands." Online posting: [www.zenit.org](http://www.zenit.org), May 13, 2005.

<sup>49</sup> "Benedict XVI's Homily on Feast of the Assumption – We Have a Mother in Heaven," Online posting: [www.zenit.org](http://www.zenit.org), Nov. 21, 2005.

<sup>50</sup> "Angelus: Mary has accompanied Church in 40 years since Council," Online posting: [www.asianews.it/view\\_p.php?l=en&art=4831](http://www.asianews.it/view_p.php?l=en&art=4831), accessed Dec. 8, 2005.

<sup>51</sup> Joan Ashton, *The Peoples Madonna*, London, Harper-Collins Publishers, 1991, p. 216.

<sup>52</sup> Pope John Paul II, Vittorio Messori, editor, *Crossing The Threshold of Hope*, New York, Alfred A. Knopf, Borzoi Book, 1994, p. 215.

<sup>53</sup> Ibid., pp. 220, 221.

<sup>54</sup> Tad Szulc, *Pope John Paul II: The Biography*, New York, Pocket Books, 1995, pp. 22-24.

<sup>55</sup> Petrisko, *Call of the Ages*, p. 5. The pope consecrated the entire world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary in 1982 and 1984.

<sup>56</sup> "Vatican Dossier – John Paul II Entrusts Third Millennium To Mary," Online posting: [www.zenit.org](http://www.zenit.org), June 6, 2001. Go to Archives and click on

Oct. 8, 2000.

<sup>57</sup> "Pope Entrusts His Mission to Mary," Online posting from Aug. 19, 2002: [www.zenit.org](http://www.zenit.org), April 16, 2005.

<sup>58</sup> Thomas W. Petrisko, *The Last Crusade*, McKees Rock, PA, St. Andrews Productions, 1996, p. 70.

<sup>59</sup> "The Marian Movement of Priests," Online posting: [www.mmp-usa.net](http://www.mmp-usa.net), May 15, 2000.

<sup>60</sup> Fr. Don Stefano Gobbi, *To The Priests, Our Lady's Beloved Sons*, St. Francis, ME, The National Headquarters of the Marian Movement of Priests in the United States of America, 1998, pp. 923, 924. Message given to Father Gobbi, Oct. 13, 1996, Tokyo, Japan.

<sup>61</sup> St. Alphonsus Ligouri, *The Glories of Mary*, New York, Alba House, 1990, p. 86.

<sup>62</sup> Patrick Marnham, *Lourdes: A Modern Pilgrimage*, New York, Coward, McCann & Geoghegan, Inc., 1980, pp. 4-9.

<sup>63</sup> Rev. Eugene M. Brown, *Dreams, Visions & Prophecies of Don Bosco*, New Rochelle, NY, Salesiana Publishers, 1986, p. 114.

<sup>64</sup> Pope Pius XII, "Le Pelerinage de Lourdes," Online posting: [www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va), accessed May 11, 2002. July 2, 1957, p. 2, encyclical.

<sup>65</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 3.

<sup>66</sup> Gobbi, p. 419. Message given in Como, Italy, on December 31, 1984 to Father Gobbi.

<sup>67</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 278. Message given in Melbourne, Australia, on October 27, 1980.

<sup>68</sup> [www.catholicnewsagency.com/new.php?n=4293](http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/new.php?n=4293)

<sup>69</sup> [www.kentucky.com/mld/heraldleader/living/religion/12251677.htm](http://www.kentucky.com/mld/heraldleader/living/religion/12251677.htm)

<sup>70</sup> <http://zenit.org/english/visualizza.phtml?sid=75128>

<sup>71</sup> [www.wcr.ab.ca/news/2005/0829/books082905.shtml](http://www.wcr.ab.ca/news/2005/0829/books082905.shtml)

<sup>72</sup> [www.cwnews.com/news/viewstory.cfm?recnum=39419](http://www.cwnews.com/news/viewstory.cfm?recnum=39419)

<sup>73</sup> [www.breitbart.com/news/2005/11/07/D8DNSMQG8.html](http://www.breitbart.com/news/2005/11/07/D8DNSMQG8.html)

<sup>74</sup> [www.catholicnewsagency.com/new.php?n=5370](http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/new.php?n=5370)

<sup>75</sup> [www.beliefnet.com/story/180/story\\_18093\\_1.html](http://www.beliefnet.com/story/180/story_18093_1.html)

<sup>76</sup> <http://zenit.org/english/visualizza.phtml?sid=82423>

<sup>77</sup> “Ecumenism is obligatory for all Christians, Pope says,” Online posting: [www.cwnews.com/news/viewstory.cfm?recnum=39419](http://www.cwnews.com/news/viewstory.cfm?recnum=39419), Jan. 14, 2006.

<sup>78</sup> [www.fortwayne.com/mld/newssentinel/11733696.htm?template=contentModules/printstory.jsp](http://www.fortwayne.com/mld/newssentinel/11733696.htm?template=contentModules/printstory.jsp)

<sup>79</sup> [www.catholicnewsagency.com/new.php?n=4499](http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/new.php?n=4499)

<sup>80</sup> [www.catholicnewsagency.com/new.php?n=4764](http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/new.php?n=4764)

<sup>81</sup> <http://news.tbo.com/news/MGB40DT8IDE.html>

<sup>82</sup> [www.ndtv.com/morenews/showmorestory.asp?category=National&slug=Catholic+priests+seek+Hindu+rituals&id=80561](http://www.ndtv.com/morenews/showmorestory.asp?category=National&slug=Catholic+priests+seek+Hindu+rituals&id=80561)

<sup>83</sup> [www.catholicnewsagency.com/new.php?n=5350](http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/new.php?n=5350)

<sup>84</sup> [www.zenit.org/english/visualizza.phtml?sid=79936](http://www.zenit.org/english/visualizza.phtml?sid=79936)

<sup>85</sup> [www.zenit.org/english/visualizza.phtml?sid=80971](http://www.zenit.org/english/visualizza.phtml?sid=80971)

<sup>86</sup> [www.zenit.org/english/visualizza.phtml?sid=80965](http://www.zenit.org/english/visualizza.phtml?sid=80965)

<sup>87</sup> To investigate the current ecumenical movement in-depth, visit: [www.understandthetimes.org](http://www.understandthetimes.org)

<sup>88</sup> Thomas W. Petrisko, *For the Soul of the Family*, Santa Barbara, CA, Queenship Publishing, 1996, p. 92.

<sup>89</sup> Michael H. Brown, “Book On Mary Turns Runaway Youngster Immersed In Drugs And Crime Into Priest,” Online posting, [www.immaculateheart.com/MaryOnLine/html/co-redemptrix.html](http://www.immaculateheart.com/MaryOnLine/html/co-redemptrix.html), April 16, 2005.

### CHAPTER 3 QUEEN OF ISLAM

<sup>90</sup> N. J. Dawood, translator, *The Koran*, New York, Penguin Putnam, Inc., 1997, pp. 46-47, surah 3:45-3:46.

<sup>91</sup> Sahih Bukhari, *Hadith*, Volume 4, Book 55, #642.

<sup>92</sup> Ibid., #643.

<sup>93</sup> *The Koran*, p. 46, surah 3:42.

<sup>94</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 88, surah 5:75.

<sup>95</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 216, surah 19:30-32.

<sup>96</sup> Ray Stanford, *Fatima Prophecy*, New York, Ballantine Books, 1988, pp. 44-49. See also: Pearl Zaki, *Before Our Eyes: The Virgin Mary Zeitoun Egypt 1968 & 1969*, Santa Barbara, CA, Queenship Publishing Company, 2002.

<sup>97</sup> *The Koran*, p. 243, surah 23:50-54.

<sup>98</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 233, surah 21:91-93.

<sup>99</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 102, surah 6:104.

<sup>100</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 271, surah 27:93.

<sup>101</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 374, surah 54:1-2.

<sup>102</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 338, surah 41:53.

<sup>103</sup> "Virgin Mary Seen as Model for All Muslims," Online posting: [www.zenit.org](http://www.zenit.org), Dec. 10, 2001.

<sup>104</sup> *The Koran*, surahs 2:1-5; 2:136; 4:13; 4:150-152; 4:163-164; 5:68

<sup>105</sup> Abdiyah Akbar Abdul-Haqq, *Sharing Your Faith with a Muslim*, Minneapolis, MN, Bethany House Publishers, 1980, chapters 3 and 4.

<sup>106</sup> *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, New York, An Image Book, published by Doubleday, 1994, pp. 242, 243, paragraph 841.

<sup>107</sup> Malachi Martin, *The Keys of this Blood*, New York, Simon & Schuster, 1990, p. 285.

<sup>108</sup> Fulton J. Sheen, *The World's First Love – Mary, Mother of God*, San Francisco, CA, Ignatius Press, reprinted 1996, pp. 201, 204.

<sup>109</sup> Petrisko, *Call of the Ages*, p. 449.

<sup>110</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>111</sup> Sheen, p. 203.

<sup>112</sup> ExpressIndia website, Reuters, Online posting: [www.expressindia.com/fullstory.php?newsid=35246&headline=Twist~of~globalisation::~All~faiths~come~together](http://www.expressindia.com/fullstory.php?newsid=35246&headline=Twist~of~globalisation::~All~faiths~come~together), August 20, 2004, accessed Nov. 11, 2005.

<sup>113</sup> Sheen, p. 274.

## CHAPTER 4

### QUEEN OF THE EAST

<sup>114</sup> Wicca is a polytheistic neo-pagan nature religion inspired by various pre-Christian western European beliefs, whose central deity is a mother goddess.

<sup>115</sup> Jim Tetlow, *Messages From Heaven*, Fairport, NY, Eternal Productions, 2002, chapter 7. This book is listed in the back and documents that the apparitions put forth a united front. Though apparitions have warned that Satan may manifest wherever she appears, the apparitional Mary has never discredited a specific apparition and declared it to be an impostor.

<sup>116</sup> Annie Kirkwood, *Mary's Message to the World*, New York, A Perigee Book, 1991, p. 145.

<sup>117</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 168-169.

<sup>118</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 155.

<sup>119</sup> Beatrice Bruteau, compiled by Shirley Nicholson, *The Goddess Re-Awakening*, Wheaton, IL, The Theophical Publishing House, 1994, p. 68.

<sup>120</sup> Caitlin Matthews, *Sophia Goddess of Wisdom*, Hammersmith, London, Thorsons – An Imprint of Harper Collins Publishers, 1992, pp. 11, 332.

<sup>121</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 8.

<sup>122</sup> Carol P. Christ, *Rebirth of the Goddess*, Reading, MA, Addison-Wesley Publishing Co., 1997, preface.

<sup>123</sup> Andrew Harvey and Anne Baring, *The Divine Feminine: Exploring the Feminine Face of God Around the World*, Berkeley, CA, Conari Press, 1996, p. 140.

<sup>124</sup> David R. Kinsley, *Hindu Goddesses: Visions of the Divine Feminine in the Hindu Religious Tradition*, Los Angeles, CA, University of California Press, 1989, p. 1.

<sup>125</sup> Bob and Penny Lord, *The Many Faces of Mary: A Love Story*, Westlake Village, CA, Journeys of Faith, 1987, p. 7.

<sup>126</sup> Fulton J. Sheen, *The World's First Love – Mary, Mother of God*, San Francisco, CA, Ignatius Press, reprinted 1996, p. 190.

<sup>127</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 189.

<sup>128</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 193.

<sup>129</sup> Andrew Harvey & Anne Baring, *The Divine Feminine – Exploring The Face of God Around the World*, Berkeley, CA, Conari Press, 1996, p. 102.

<sup>130</sup> Maria Natalia, Sr., *The Victorious Queen of the World*, (second revised edition), Mountain View, CA, Two Hearts Books and Publishers, 1992, pp. 124, 125.

<sup>131</sup> Thomas W. Petrisko, *For the Soul of the Family*, Santa Barbara, CA, Queenship Publishing Company, 1996, p. 105. Message given to Estela Ruiz of Phoenix, Arizona, on December 10, 1988.

<sup>132</sup> Catalina Rivas, *The Great Crusade of Love*, Lithonia, GA, The Great Crusade of Love and Mercy, Inc., 2000. Message number CL – 177 given on January 25, 1996.

<sup>133</sup> Josef Kunzli, p. v.

<sup>134</sup> Ibid., p. 84.

<sup>135</sup> Ibid., p. 89. Emphasis in original.

<sup>136</sup> Michelle Rios Rice Hennelly and R. Kevin Hennelly, *Mary's Way: Romantic Love as a Path to God*, Santa Fe, New Mexico, Our Lady of Light Publications, 2004.

## CHAPTER 5

### TESTING THE MESSAGES

<sup>137</sup> For a more thorough study of 101 of these last days prophecies, visit our website at: [www.eternal-productions.org](http://www.eternal-productions.org) to review the booklet *101 Last Days Prophecies*.

<sup>138</sup> Isaiah 42:9; Isaiah 46:9-10; John 13:19

<sup>139</sup> Ray Comfort, *Nostradamus: Attack on America*, Gainesville, FL, Bridge-Logos Publishers, 2001.

<sup>140</sup> When the Church approves an apparition as genuine, the apparition and her messages are declared to conform with the true teaching of Jesus Christ and to be in harmony with Church teaching. The Church's approval declares that people may read and receive the messages without harm and that, in fact, the instructions and directions contained in them are useful and conducive to salvation. Their exact observance leads to a complete, living Christianity which fully comprises personal and public life. People are allowed to pay public adoration to the apparition without harm. They are



allowed and even encouraged to visit Marian shrines at approved apparition sites. Although Catholics are not required to follow or obey the messages of an apparition, doing so will not harm their faith and may enhance it.

<sup>141</sup> Many apparitions carry the Imprimatur (approval) of the local Roman Catholic bishop – meaning that there is nothing contrary to Catholic faith and morals in the apparitions' messages. According to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, paragraph 862, on page 249: “the bishops have by divine institution taken the place of the apostles as pastors of the Church, in such wise that whoever listens to them is listening to Christ and whoever despises them despises Christ and him who sent Christ.”

<sup>142</sup> Teiji Yasuda, O.S.V., English version by John M. Haffert, Akita: *The Tears and Message of Mary*, Asbury, NJ, 101 Foundation, Inc., 1989, p. 78. Message from Our Lady of Akita to Sister Agnes Sasagawa.

<sup>143</sup> Petrisko, *Call of the Ages*, p. 247. Message to St. Bridget of Sweden, 14th century.

<sup>144</sup> Walsh, *Our Lady of Fatima*, New York, Doubleday, pp. 68, 69. Message from Our Lady of Fatima to Lucia.

<sup>145</sup> Sister Margaret Catherine Sims, CSJ, *Apparitions in Betania, Venezuela: Mary, Virgin and Mother of Reconciliation of All People*, Framingham, MA, Medjugorje Messengers, 1992, p. 42. Message given to Maria Esperanza in Betania, Venezuela.

<sup>146</sup> Paul A. Mihalik, *The Virgin Mary, Fr. Gobbi and the Year 2000*, Santa Barbara, CA, 1998, p. 34. Message number 441i to Father Gobbi.

<sup>147</sup> Kunzli, p. 51. Message given to Ida Peerdeman of Amsterdam, Holland on April 29, 1951.

<sup>148</sup> Gobbi, pp. 264-265. Message given to Father Gobbi, June 14, 1980.

<sup>149</sup> Petrisko, *Call of the Ages*, p. 11. Message given to Bruno Cornacchiola, Tre Fontane, Italy.

<sup>150</sup> *Messages of Our Lady at San Nicolas*, Milford, OH, Faith Publishing Company, 1991, p. 233. Message given in San Nicolas, Argentina to Gladys Quiroga de Motta.

<sup>151</sup> Gobbi, p. 625. Message given on Dec. 8, 1989.

<sup>152</sup> Miriam A. and Stephen M. Weglian, *Let Heaven and Earth Unite!*, Milford, OH, Faith Publishing Company, 1996, p. 43. Message given to Bernardo Martinez of Cuapa, Nicaragua on October 13, 1980.

## CHAPTER 6

## BIBLICAL EXPOSÉ OF THE QUEEN OF HEAVEN

<sup>153</sup> Lord, p. 87.

<sup>154</sup> Ibid., p. 215.

<sup>155</sup> This video can be viewed or ordered at: [www.eternal-productions.org](http://www.eternal-productions.org)

<sup>156</sup> Lord, pp. 22, 26, 54, 78, 92, 130, 152, 156, 172.

<sup>157</sup> *Devotions in Honor of Our Mother of Perpetual Help*, Liquori, MO, Liquori Publications, pp. 35, 36.

<sup>158</sup> Isaiah 46:3

<sup>159</sup> Isaiah 2:8, 18, 20; Jeremiah 50:2, 38 and 51:17, 47, 52; Hosea 2:17; Zechariah 13:2; Revelation 9:20

<sup>160</sup> Gobbi, p. 383.

<sup>161</sup> For example at Fatima, Portugal and the Jasna Gora shrine in Poland, many pilgrims crawl to and pray before the statue of Mary. Yet the apparition never discourages this behavior. View the video entitled *Messages From Heaven* listed in the back of this book.

<sup>162</sup> "Pope John Paul II: Consecration Prayer," Online posting: [www.bluearmy.com/consecration2000.htm](http://www.bluearmy.com/consecration2000.htm), November 25, 2000.

<sup>163</sup> Mark I. Miravalle, S.T.D., *The Dogma and the Triumph*, Santa Barbara, CA, Queenship Publishing, 1998, p. 24.

<sup>164</sup> Gobbi, p. 7. Emphasis in original.

<sup>165</sup> Ibid., p. 119.

<sup>166</sup> *Devotions in Honor of Our Mother of Perpetual Help*, pp. 38-39.

<sup>167</sup> Revelation 12:9

<sup>168</sup> Genesis 3:1

<sup>169</sup> Matthew 4:6

<sup>170</sup> The apparition often claims to be the woman of Revelation 12. This assertion is unbiblical for several reasons. The Book of Revelation has over 800 allusions to the Old Testament. In studying the OT it is clear that the "woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her

head a crown of twelve stars: And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered” (Revelation 12:1-2) is a reference to the twelve tribes of Israel who were sealed by God for salvation in Revelation 7. In the Old Testament, Israel is the earthly bride of God the Father (Isaiah 54:5; Ezekiel 16:8-16; 32). Israel is frequently portrayed as a woman in labor (Isaiah 26:17-18, Isaiah 66:7-13, Micah 4:9-10, Micah 5:3). During the Tribulation, God again deals with Israel (Revelation 7; Daniel 9, etc.). The period described in Revelation chapters 6-19, is even called “the time of Jacob’s trouble” (Jeremiah 30:7). Of course, God changed Jacob’s name to Israel (Genesis 35:10). Most importantly, according to Joseph’s dream recorded in Genesis 37:5-11, the twelve stars represent the twelve tribes of Israel, and the sun and the moon represent Jacob (a.k.a. Israel) and his wife. Therefore, the woman of Revelation, from a scriptural perspective, is Israel. In addition, God states clearly in Romans 11:25-32 that He is not through with Israel, but that He will again deal with her in the last days. No where in the Bible does it state that God will send Mary in the last days. Furthermore, Israel’s repentance in the last days ushers in, or literally gives birth to Jesus’ Second Coming (Zechariah 12:10; 14:4). By reading Zechariah chapters 12 through 14 we find that Jesus is considered Israel’s son. It is Israel who gave the world the Messiah. Mary, as a Jew, was the instrument God chose, but Israel, as God’s wife, brought forth the Savior. Finally, we are told in Revelation 12:2 that this woman is in pain. This directly contradicts the Catholic doctrine that Mary, as sinless, did not experience the consequences of the curse, namely, that she was exempt from pain and death. Genesis 3:16 explains that pain in childbirth is the direct result of the curse. Therefore, if Mary is sinless, she cannot be the woman of Revelation 12 who is experiencing pain. Of course, the Bible states that all are sinners, but Catholics who hold this position must acknowledge that they cannot have it both ways.

<sup>171</sup> Raphael Brown, *Saints Who Saw Mary*, Rockford, IL, Tan Books and Publishers, Inc., 1955, p. 63. Message given to St. Bridget of Sweden.

<sup>172</sup> Ecclesiastes 1:9-11

## CHAPTER 7

### QUEEN OF REVELATION

<sup>173</sup> Deuteronomy 12:29-31

<sup>174</sup> Revelation 17:15; 18:7

<sup>175</sup> Revelation 17:1-2

<sup>176</sup> Revelation 17:2

<sup>177</sup> Revelation 17:15

<sup>178</sup> Revelation 17:18

<sup>179</sup> 2 Corinthians 11:2

<sup>180</sup> Isaiah 54:5; Jeremiah 3:14

<sup>181</sup> Jeremiah 3:1-8; Ezekiel 16:16, 28, 41; Hosea 4:15; etc.

<sup>182</sup> Ephesians 6:12

<sup>183</sup> Margaret R. Bunson, *John Paul II's Book of Mary*, Huntington, IN, Our Sunday Visitor, Inc., 1997, pp. 71, 80, 144.

<sup>184</sup> Dave Hunt, *A Woman Rides the Beast*, Eugene, OR, Harvest House Publishers, 1994, p. 435.

<sup>185</sup> Refer to chapter 11 of the book *Messages From Heaven* listed in the back for more information on the Queen's false gospel.

<sup>186</sup> Refer to chapter 4 of the book *Another Jesus? The Eucharistic Christ and the New Evangelization* listed in the back for an in-depth study on the unbiblical Catholic teachings of the Eucharist.

<sup>187</sup> Refer to chapters 10 and 11 of the book *Another Jesus?*

<sup>188</sup> "Our Lady Appears in Rome," Online posting: [www.madredelleucaristia.it](http://www.madredelleucaristia.it), Nov. 22, 2005.

<sup>189</sup> Frank E. Gaebelein, *Expositor's Bible Commentary 12 Hebrews - Revelation*, Grand Rapids, MI, Zondervan Publishing House, 1976, p. 556.

<sup>190</sup> G. K. Beale, *The New International Greek Testament Commentary: The Book of Revelation*, Grand Rapids, MI, W. B. Eerdmans, 1999, pp. 855- 856.

<sup>191</sup> Charles Caldwell Ryrie, *Revelation*, Chicago, Moody Press, 1968, p. 101.

<sup>192</sup> Bunson, pp. 70, 107.

<sup>193</sup> *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, para. 1357, 1405, pp. 378, 393.

<sup>194</sup> For an in-depth examination of the Eucharistic Jesus refer to: *Another Jesus? The Eucharistic Christ and the New Evangelization* listed in the back.

<sup>195</sup> Karl Keating, *Catholicism and Fundamentalism: The Attack on "Romanism"* by "Bible Christians," Ignatius Press, 1988, p. 200.

<sup>196</sup> Jean Marie Hiesberger, general editor, *New American Bible: The Catholic Bible Personal Study Edition*, New York, Oxford University Press, p. 375.

<sup>197</sup> *New American Standard version of The Ryrie Study Bible*, Chicago, Moody Press, p. 1864.

<sup>198</sup> Hunt, p. 199.

<sup>199</sup> "Rome," *The Catholic Encyclopedia*, Thomas Nelson, 1976.

<sup>200</sup> John Phillips, *Exploring Revelation*, Neptune, NJ, Loizeaux Brothers, 1991, p. 210.

<sup>201</sup> Warren B. Wiersbe, *Wiersbe's Expository Outlines of the New Testament*, Colorado Springs, CO, Chariot Victor Publishing, 1992, p. 845.

<sup>202</sup> J. Vernon McGee, *Thru the Bible Commentary Series the Prophecy Revelation 14-22*, Nashville, TN, Thomas Nelson, Inc., 1991, p. 92.

<sup>203</sup> Ryrie, p. 104.

<sup>204</sup> Petrisko, *Call of the Ages*, p. 29.

<sup>205</sup> Ibid.

<sup>206</sup> Ibid.

<sup>207</sup> Natalia, pp. 124-125.

<sup>208</sup> Beale, p. 894.

<sup>209</sup> Matthew 24:24

<sup>210</sup> Revelation 7:9, 13, 14

<sup>211</sup> 1 Timothy 2:4

## CHAPTER 8

### LADY OF KINGDOMS

<sup>212</sup> Kunzli, p. 38. Message given on Feb. 11, 1951.

<sup>213</sup> For example, in Deuteronomy 18:15, Moses prophesies that “The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken.” The immediate context refers to Joshua, but Acts 3:22-23 applies this to Christ. Many other examples of double reference include: Psalm 22; Isaiah 7:10-11; Isaiah 14; Ezekiel 28:12-14; Hosea 11:1; etc.

<sup>214</sup> Lord., p. 9.

<sup>215</sup> Gobbi, p. 674. Message given to Father Gobbi in Brazil on February 26, 1991.

<sup>216</sup> Petrisko, *For the Soul of the Family*, pp. 104, 105.

<sup>217</sup> “Our Lady of Vladimir,” Online posting:  
[www.udayton.edu/mary/meditations/vladimir.html](http://www.udayton.edu/mary/meditations/vladimir.html), Nov. 13, 1999.

<sup>218</sup> Kunzli, p. 83. Message given on May 31, 1954, the Feast of Mary, Mediatrix of All Graces.

<sup>219</sup> Kenneth L. Woodward, “Hail, Mary,” *Newsweek*, Aug. 25, 1997, p. 49.

<sup>220</sup> Ted and Maureen Flynn, *The Thunder of Justice*, Sterling, VA, MaxKol Communications, Inc., 1993, p. 231.

<sup>221</sup> Isaiah 47:7

<sup>222</sup> Isaiah 47:11

<sup>223</sup> Isaiah 47:9

<sup>224</sup> Kunzli, p. 87. Message given on May 31, 1955.

<sup>225</sup> Weglian, p. 44. Message from the apparition Mary to visionary Father Bernardo Martinez.

<sup>226</sup> Petrisko, *For the Soul of the Family*, p. 235.

<sup>227</sup> Gobbi, p. 305. Message given in Buenos Aires, Argentina to Father Gobbi on Oct. 13, 1981.

<sup>228</sup> Mihalik, p. 16. Message given in Tokyo, Japan on Sept. 15, 1993 to Father Gobbi.

<sup>229</sup> Mother Elena Patriarca Leonardi, *Mary's Triumph Years of Revelation*, via dei Gracchi, 29 B-Roma, House of the Kingdom of God and Reconciliation of Souls, p. 54. Message given in Rome.

<sup>230</sup> Isaiah 47:6

<sup>231</sup> In Job 2:1-7, God allows Satan full access to Job's body, to afflict and to remove the affliction.

<sup>232</sup> Exodus 7:22; 8:7

<sup>233</sup> Petrisko, *Call of the Ages*, p. 303. Message given to Barbara Ruess, Marienfried, Germany, June 25, 1946.

## **CHAPTER 9** **WICKED WOMAN**

<sup>234</sup> Acts 26:18; Ephesians 5:8; Ephesians 6:12; 2 Peter 2:4; Revelation 16:10

<sup>235</sup> John 1:4-5; John 3:19; John 8:12; John 12:46; Psalms 119:105; 2 Peter 1:19

<sup>236</sup> Genesis 10:10; 11:2

<sup>237</sup> Frank M. Boyd, *Studies in the Revelation of Jesus Christ*, Springfield, MO, Gospel Pub., 1967, p. 219.

<sup>238</sup> Revelation 17:3

<sup>239</sup> Revelation 17:15-17; Daniel 11:36-37

<sup>240</sup> G. H. Pember, *The Great Prophecies of the Centuries*, London, Hodder and Stoughton, 1895, p. 428.

<sup>241</sup> John Peter Lange, D.D., *Commentary on The Holy Scriptures: Ezekiel, Daniel and the Minor Prophets*, Grand Rapids, MI, Zondervan Publishing House, 1960, p. 252.

<sup>242</sup> Revelation 13; 16:10

<sup>243</sup> Revelation 17:16-17

<sup>244</sup> 2 Kings 9:22

<sup>245</sup> 1 Kings 18:4

<sup>246</sup> 1 Kings 18:19

<sup>247</sup> Tim LaHaye, *Revelation Illustrated and Made Plain*, San Diego, CA, Family Life Seminars Publications, 1973, pp. 44-47.

<sup>248</sup> Flynn, pp. 11, 40, 41.

<sup>249</sup> Genesis 15:11; Deuteronomy 28:26; 1 Samuel 17:44; Psalm 79:1, 2; Jeremiah 7:33; 15:3; Revelation 19:17, 18, 21; etc.

<sup>250</sup> Arno C. Gaebelin, *The Gospel of Matthew*, New York, Loizeaux Brothers, 1961, pp. 284, 285.

<sup>251</sup> Edited by Charles F. Pfeiffer (Old Testament) and Everette F. Harrison (New Testament), *The Wycliffe Bible Commentary*, Chicago, Moody Press, 1962, p. 953.

<sup>252</sup> Rev. John R. Rice, D. D., Litt. D., *The King of the Jews - The Gospel According to Matthew*, Grand Rapids, MI, Zondervan Publishing House, 1955, pp. 201, 202.

<sup>253</sup> 1 Timothy 4:1

<sup>254</sup> 2 Timothy 3:13

<sup>255</sup> Matthew 24; Luke 21

<sup>256</sup> Matthew 24:14

<sup>257</sup> Revelation 7:9-17; Daniel 12:10; Zechariah 2:11

<sup>258</sup> 2 Thessalonians 2:3

<sup>259</sup> "Chuck Smith's Study Guide for Matthew," Online posting: [http://blueletterbible.org/Comm/chuck\\_smith/sg/matthew.html](http://blueletterbible.org/Comm/chuck_smith/sg/matthew.html), Nov. 26, 2005.

<sup>260</sup> *The Wycliffe Bible Commentary*, p. 953.

<sup>261</sup> A *measure* is equivalent to a *seah*, and three measures (or three seahs) equal one ephah.

<sup>262</sup> John Phillips, *Exploring The Gospels - Matthew*, Neptune, NJ, Loizeaux Brothers, 1999, p. 264.

<sup>263</sup> H. A. Ironside, Litt. D., *Expository Notes on the Gospel of Matthew*, New York, Loizeaux Brothers, Inc., 1948, pp. 168-169.

<sup>264</sup> David Leemings and Jake Page, *Myths of the Female Divine Goddess*, New York, Oxford University Press, 1994, pp. 161-162.



## CHAPTER 10

### COME OUT OF HER MY PEOPLE

<sup>265</sup> Isaiah 53:10

<sup>266</sup> Refer to chapter 11 of the book *Messages From Heaven* listed in the back for more information on the Queen's false gospel.

<sup>267</sup> *Messages of Our Lady at San Nicolas*, p. 357.

<sup>268</sup> Gobbi, p. 703. Message given at Milan, Italy on Dec. 8, 1991 to Father Gobbi.

<sup>269</sup> Isaiah 9:6-7; John 16:33; Acts 10:36; Romans 5:1; Colossians 1:20; Ephesians 2:14; etc.

<sup>270</sup> Galatians 5:19-21; Revelation 21:8

## NOTES

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